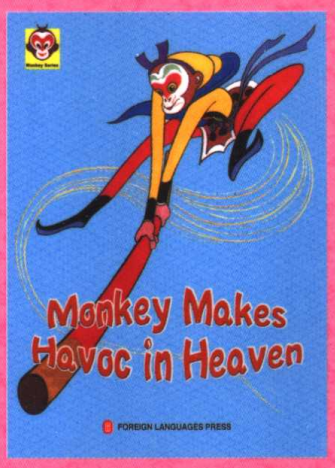
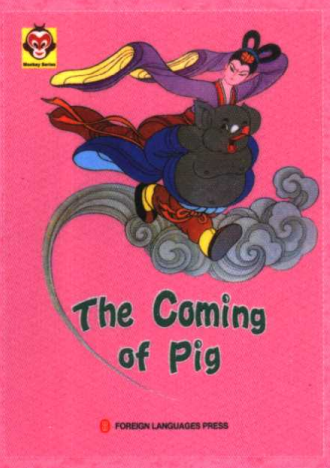
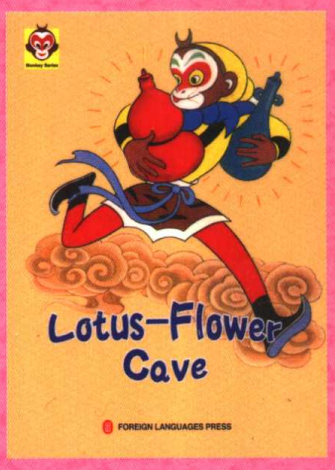
Monkey Series

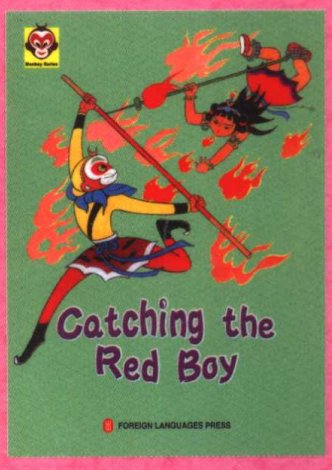
The Coming of Pig

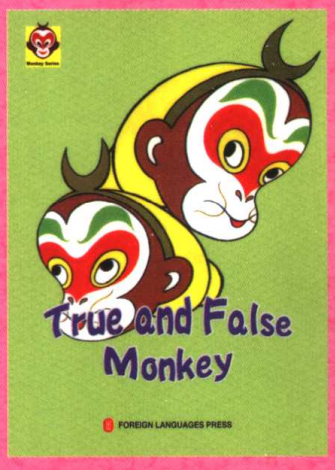
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

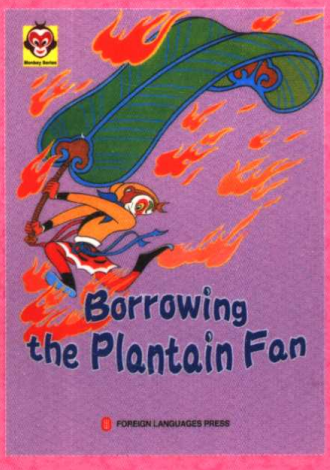


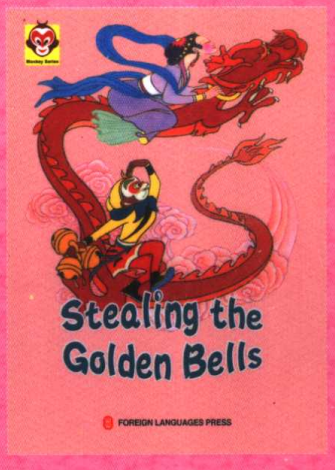


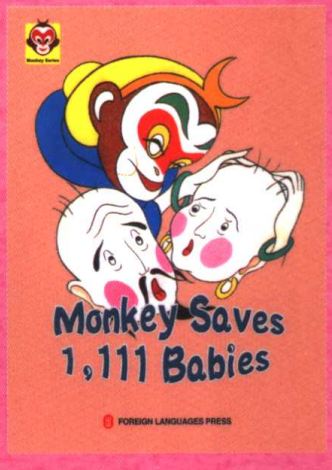


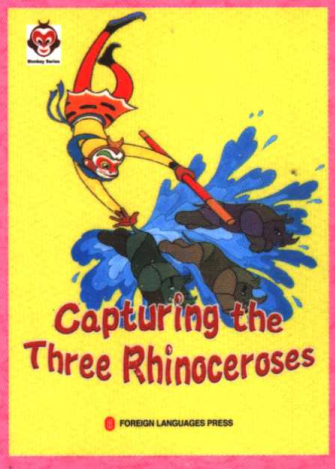


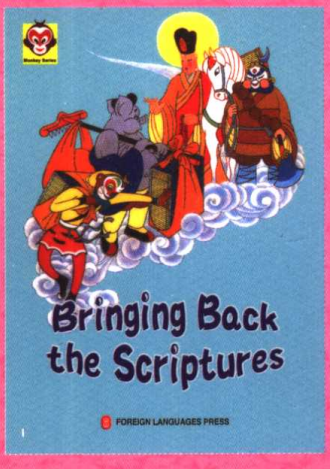












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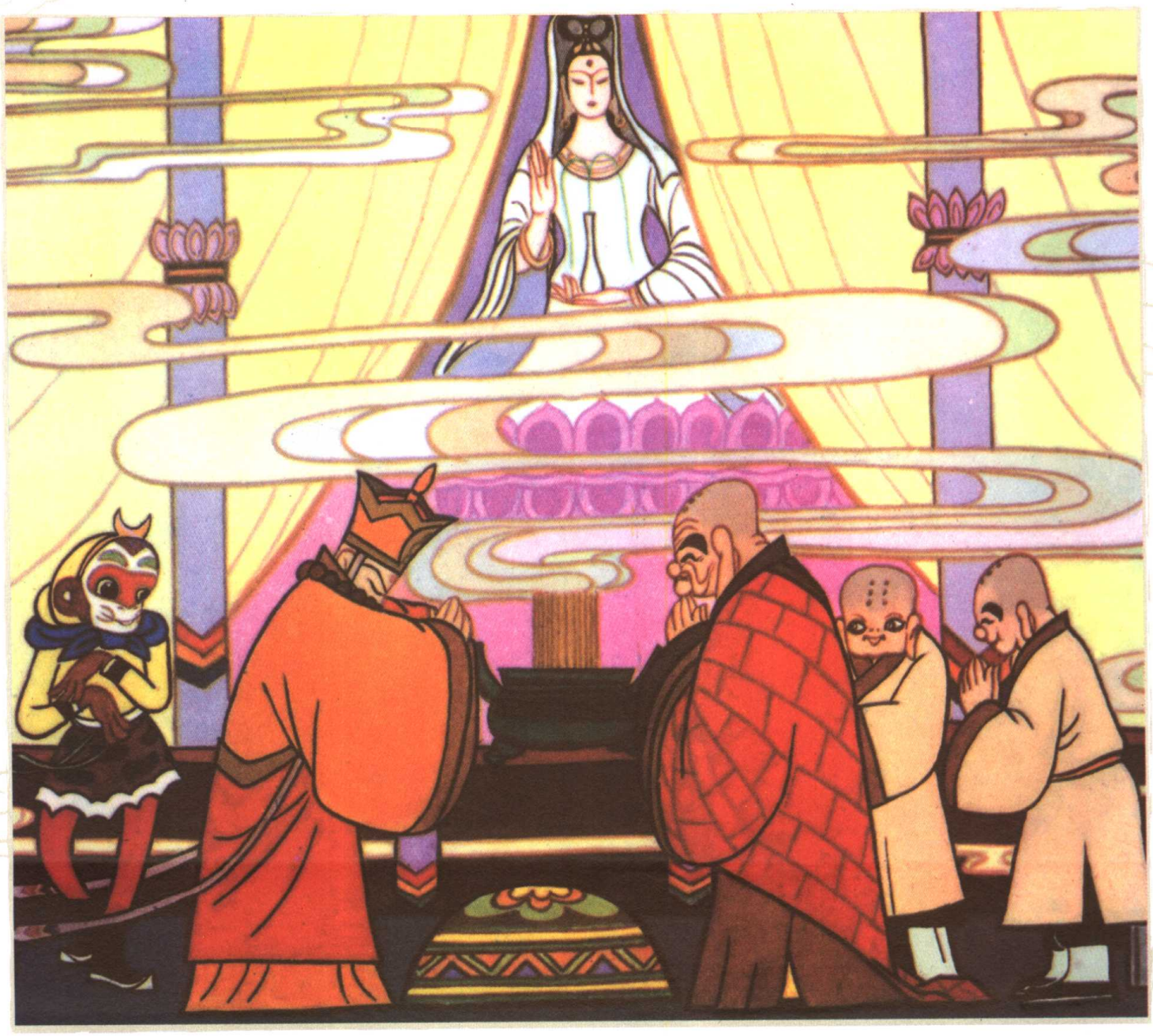
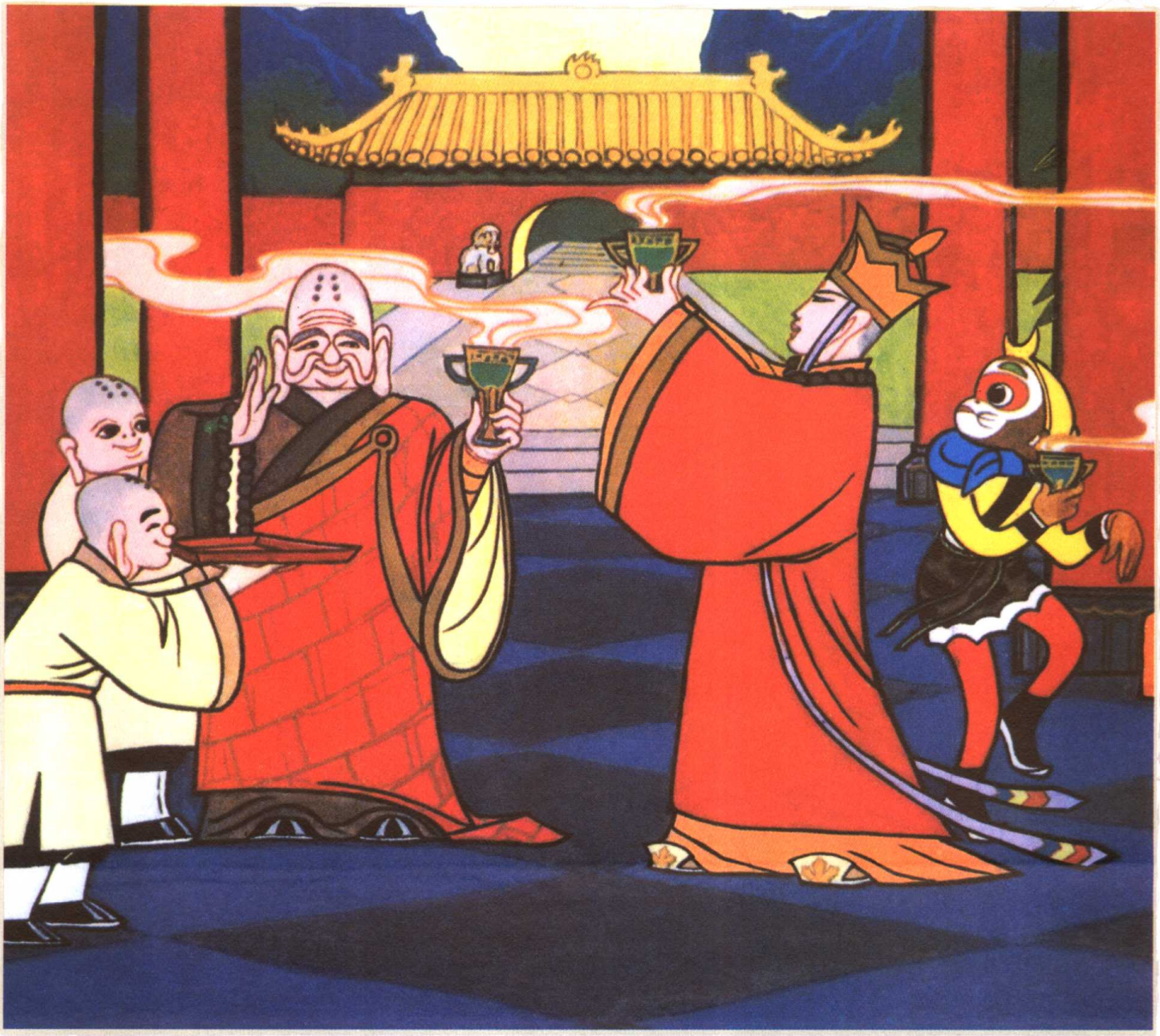
Trouble on Black Wind Mountain

Trouble on Black Wind Mountain, tells how the Tang Priest's cassock is stolen by the Black Bear Spirit when Monkey shows it off at the Guanyin Monastery. To get it back, Monkey makes trouble on the Black Wind Mountain before the Bodhisattva Guanyin agrees to help subdue the Black Bear Spirit and get the cassock back.

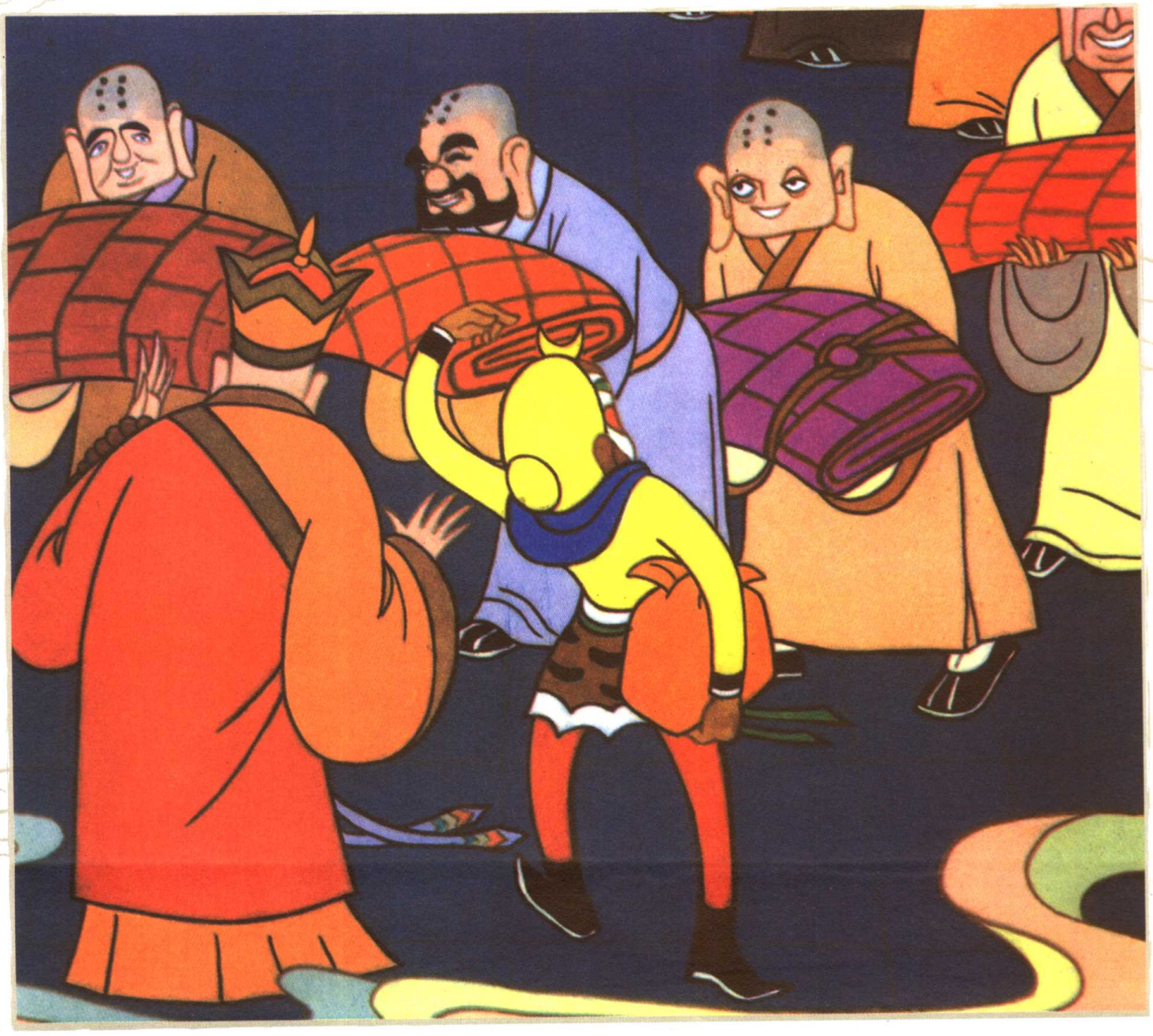
The Tang Priest Xuanzang (pronounced Sywanzang in two syllables) and Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, were travelling towards the West. Seeing that the sun was setting, Xuanzang asked Sun Wukong, "Where are we now?" Looking around, Monkey said, "There is a monastery in the valley. Let's go and stay there for the night."



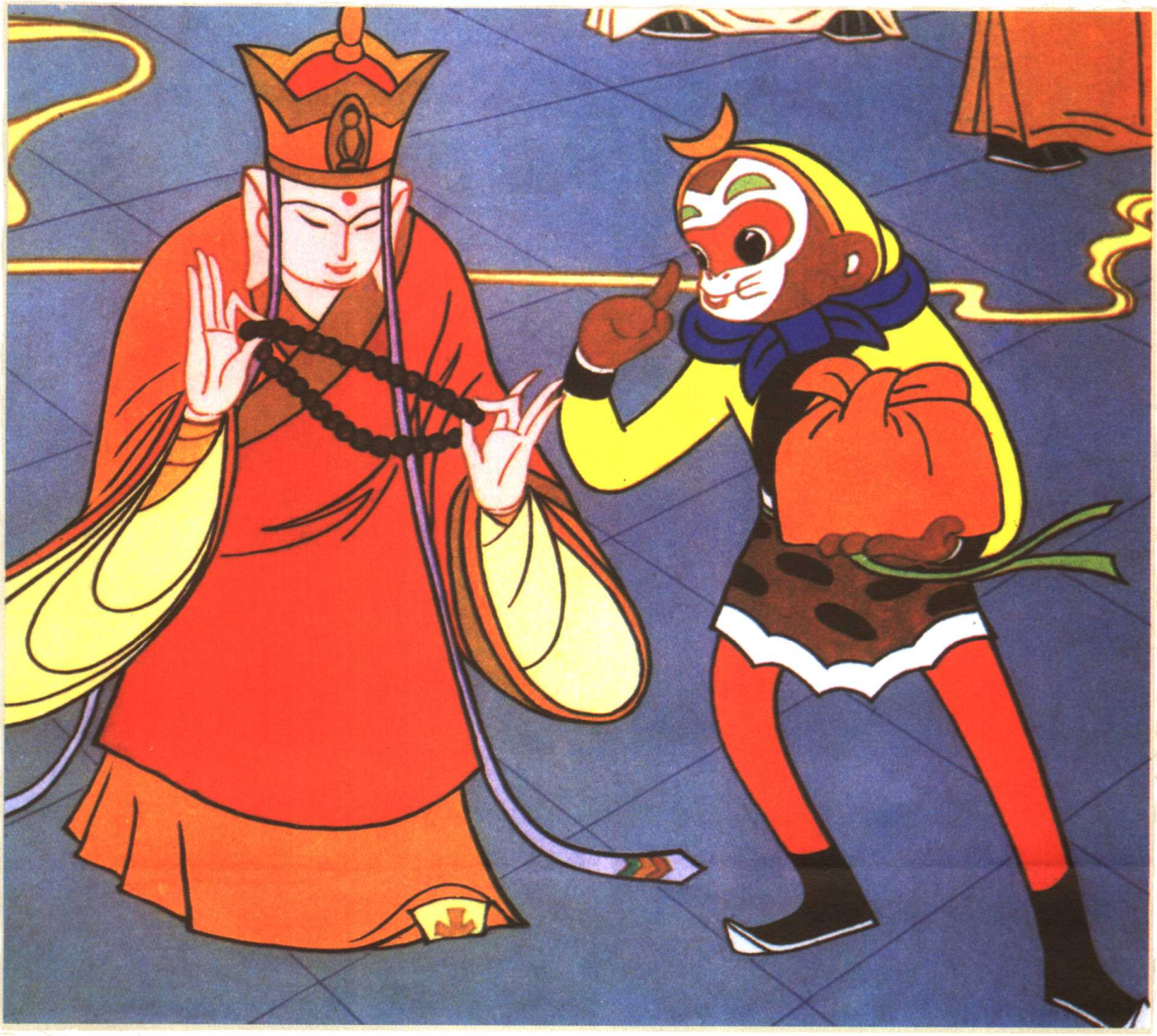
In the monastery, the Tang Priest bowed to the Buddha and saw two young monks come towards him supporting an older one, the Elder of the Golden Pool. He was the abbot of the monastery. Xuanzang hurried to bow to him and asked, "How old are you, Venerable Abbot?" "Two hundred and seventy years old," replied the old monk. "The young people told me you are from the Tang Empire in the East. Welcome."



A young monk brought in three cups of tea. Xuanzang kept saying how wonderful the china was. "But that should be nothing to you gentlemen," said the abbot. "You come from the Heavens and have seen all kinds of fantastic treasures. These things are hardly worthy of your praise. You must have brought some really splendid treasures with you. Could we have a look at them?"



"Yes ,the cassock Master has in his bundle is really fantastic," said Sun Wukong. The old monk smiled, "Our Patriarch has seven or eight hundred cassocks I can show you." He ordered the young monks to bring out the cassocks. "That's enough," Monkey said after looking at some embroidered ones. "You should see ours."



Xuanzang drew the Monkey King aside and whispered, "Disciple, never try to compete over wealth. If greedy people see what is precious, they may become envious and do something bad." "Don't worry," replied Monkey, "I'll take care of it." Then he untied the bundle.

When Monkey took out the cassock, the room shone bright with its jewels and Buddhist treasures. All the young monks praised it.

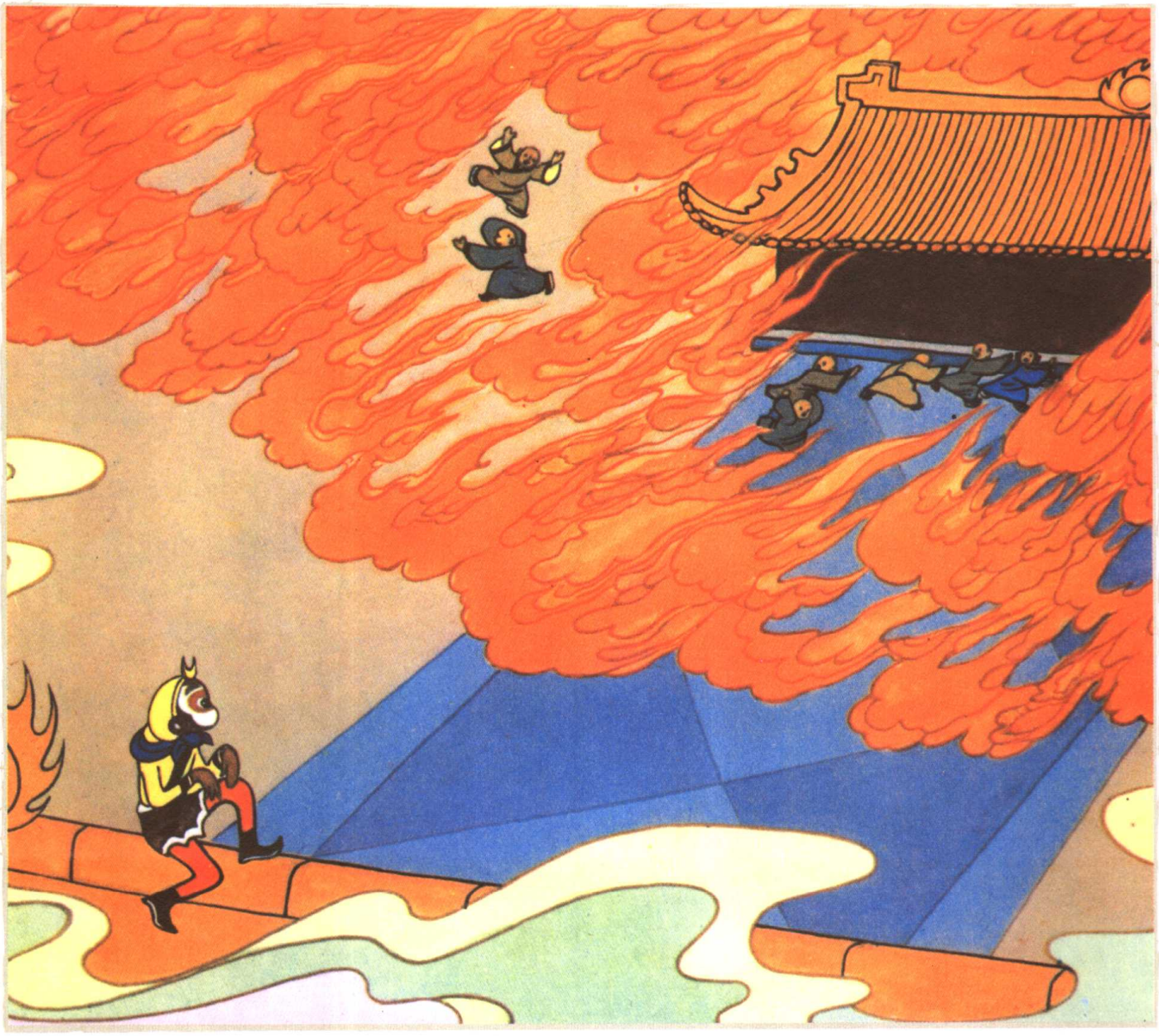
After the abbot saw how splendid the cassock was, he was very jealous. "It was dark just now," he said to the Tang Priest, "and I couldn't see your treasure very clearly. May I ask the monks to take it to my room so I can have a better look at it?" Xuanzang was surprised and grumbled at Sun Wukong. "Don't be afraid of him," grinned Monkey, who handed the cassock to the Elder.

Once the abbot had tricked them into giving him the cassock, he talked with the young monks about how to keep it. "That's easily arranged," said a young monk by the name of Broad Plans. "After they go to sleep we can put wood and grass around their room and set it on fire. The two of them are bound to be killed. Nobody will know how it happened and the cassock will be yours." All the monks agreed with this plan.

But the Monkey King was very clever. When he heard people walking about outside carrying wood in the middle of the night, he wondered what was up. "Could they be bandits trying to murder us?" he thought, and bounded out of bed disguised as a bee to go and have a look.

Monkey saw the monks piling wood and straw around their room, ready to set fire to it. "My master was right," he said to himself with a smile. "But if I killed all of them with my cudgel, the master would be angry with me for murdering them. Instead I think I'll let the old monk have a taste of his own medicine."

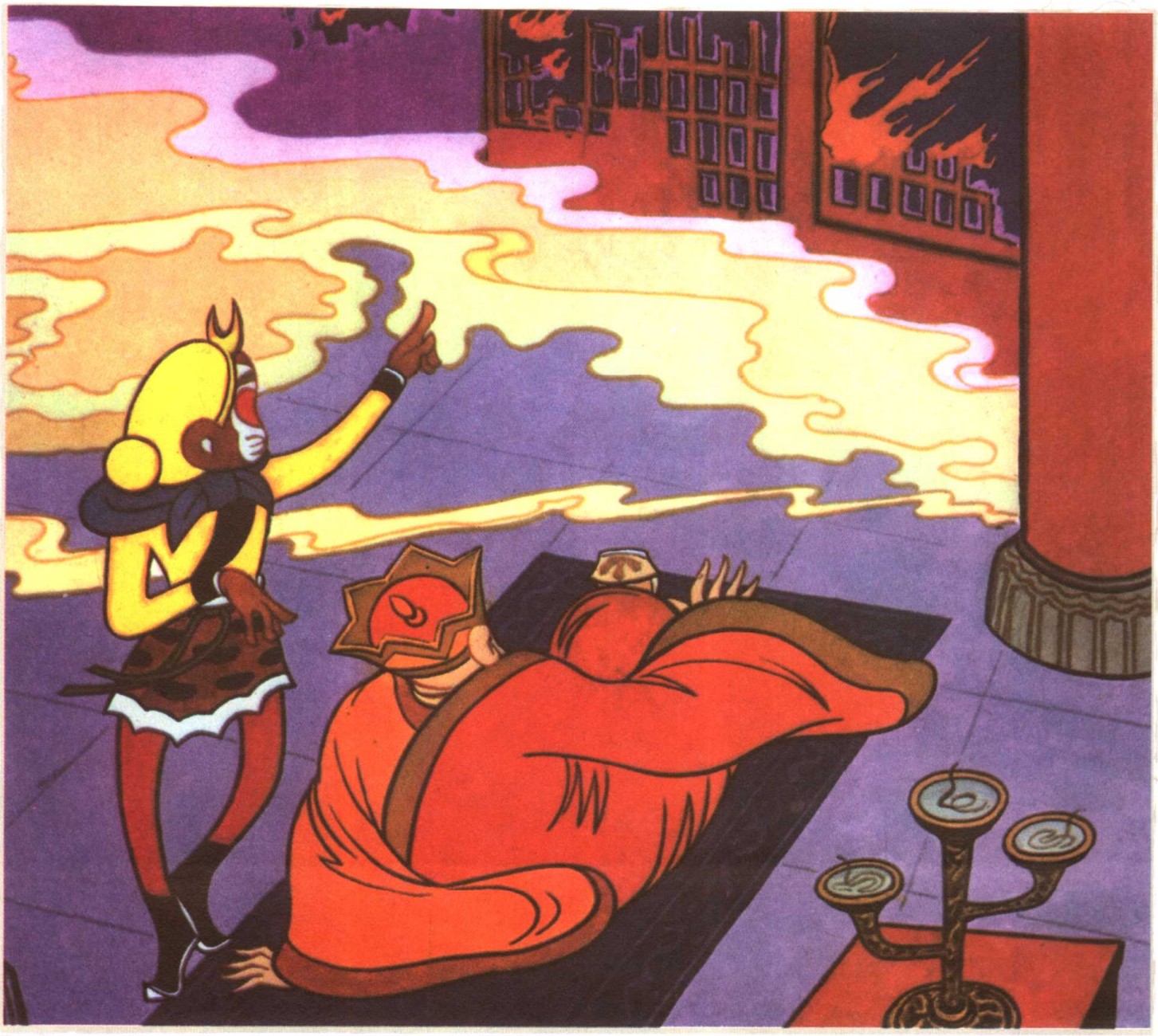
Sun Wukong jumped to the Southern Gate of Heaven with one somersault. When he saw the Broad-Visioned Heavenly King there, he told him, "The Tang Priest has met some villains who want to burn him to death. Please lend me your Anti-fire Cover so I can save him. It's urgent." The Heavenly King was unable to refuse and handed the cover to Monkey.



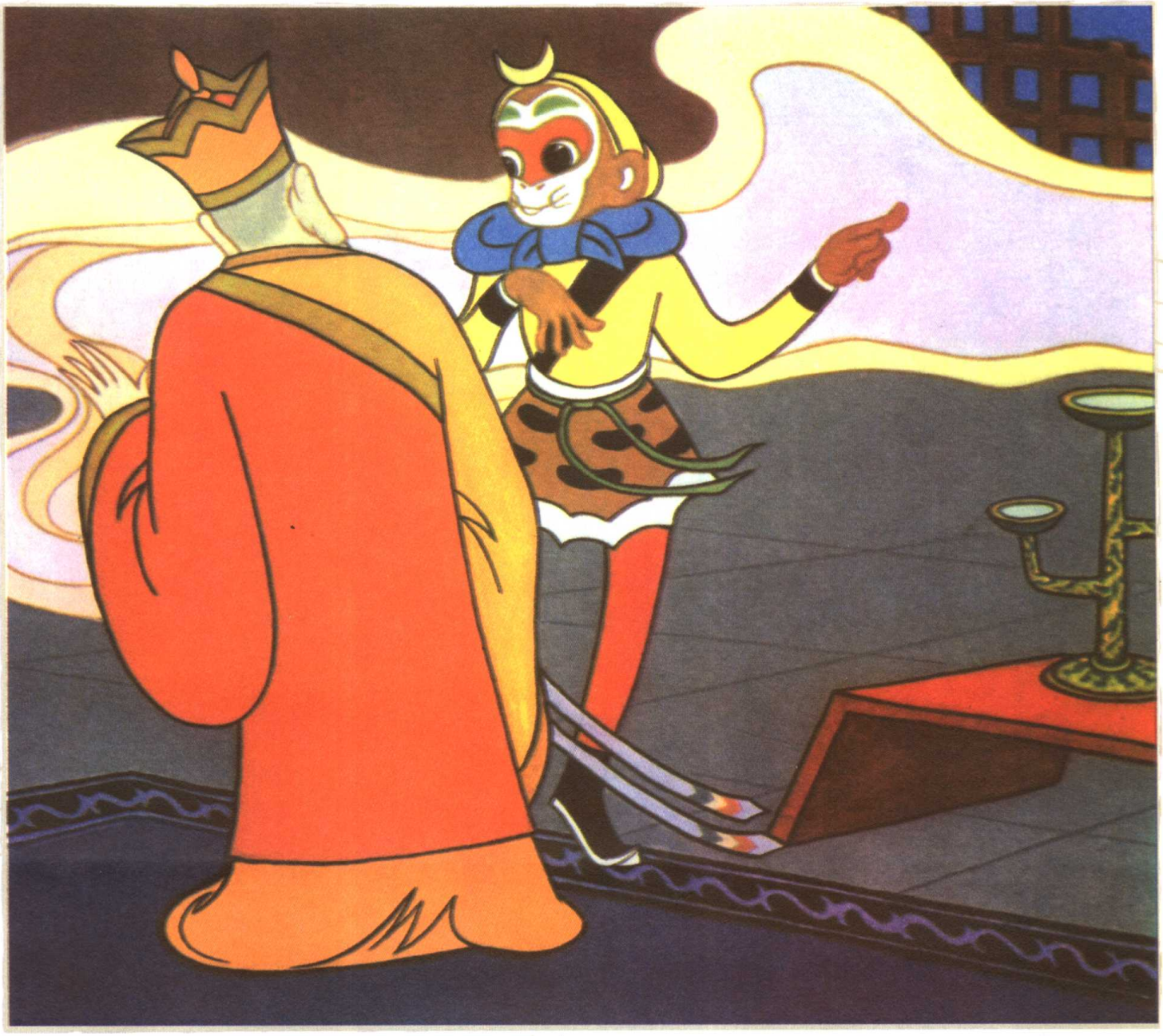
When the Monkey King returned to the monastery, he covered Xuanzang, the white horse and the luggage with the Anti-fire Cover and went to the abbot's room to protect the cassock. Soon the young monks started the fire. Sun Wukong used his magical powers to keep blowing wind at the fire, so that the flames grew bigger and bigger and the monastery became a sea of fire. All the young monks howled and wailed.

Seven miles south of the Guanyin Monastery, in the Black Wind Cave on the Black Wind Mountain, lived a black bear turned monster. When he awoke at midnight and saw an enormous fire, he jumped on a cloud and flew to the monastery to put it out. But he noticed that there was no fire at the back of the monastery where the abbot lived. "Something strange is happening," he muttered to himself.

When the monster rushed into the room he saw something shining very brightly on the table. He opened the bundle and took out a brocade cassock that was a rare treasure of the Buddhist religion. He grabbed the cassock and took it back to his cave.

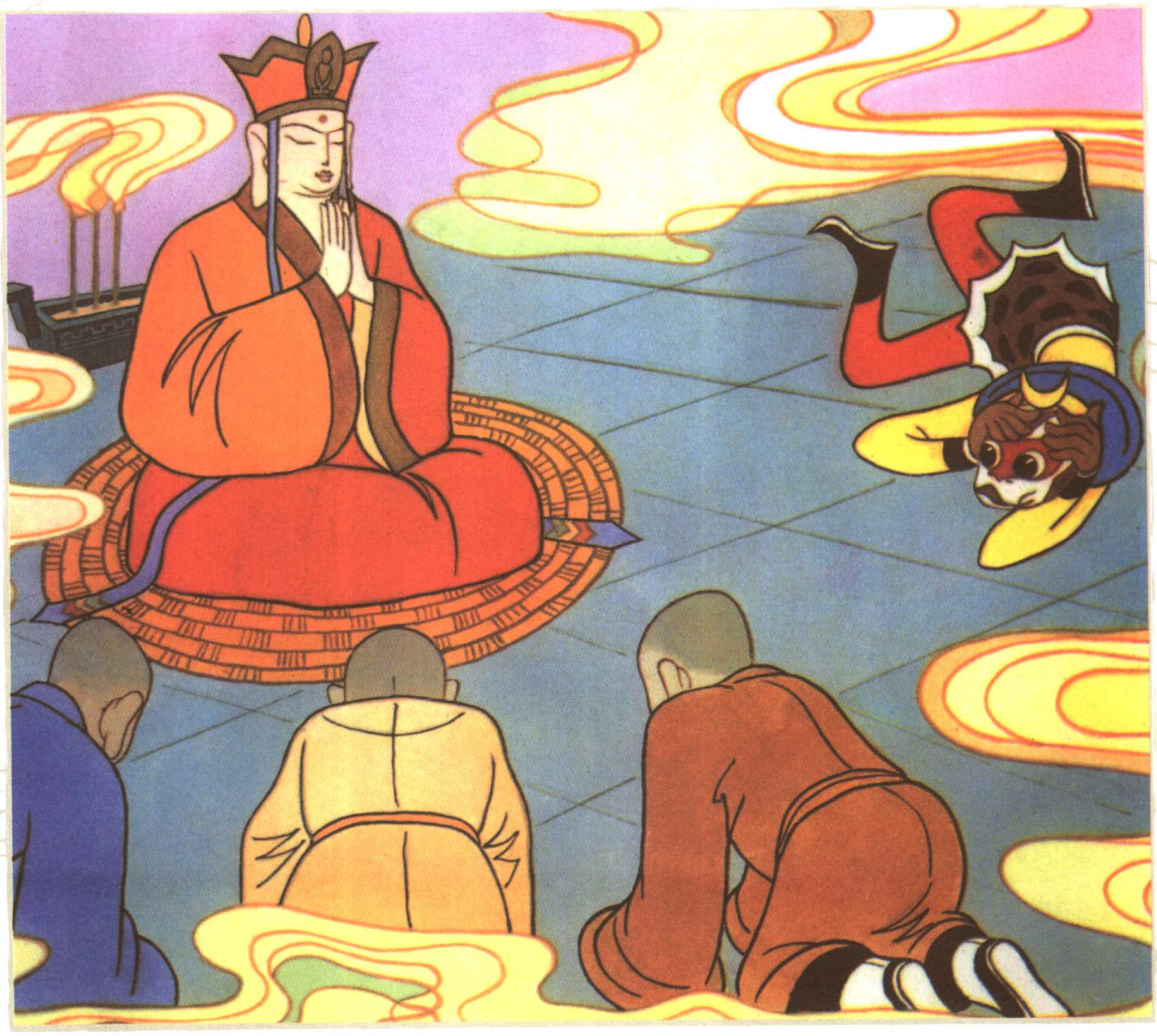


The big fire didn't stop burning until dawn. The Monkey King quickly returned the Anti-fire Cover to the Broad-Visioned Heavenly King, thanked him, and came back before the Tang Priest woke up. When Xuanzang woke up and saw that the monastery was gone, he was astonished. "Where are all the buildings?" he asked. Monkey smiled. "What you said would happen actually did happen," he said. "The old monk wanted to burn us to death. So I didn't help put the blaze out. Instead I helped them with some extra wind."



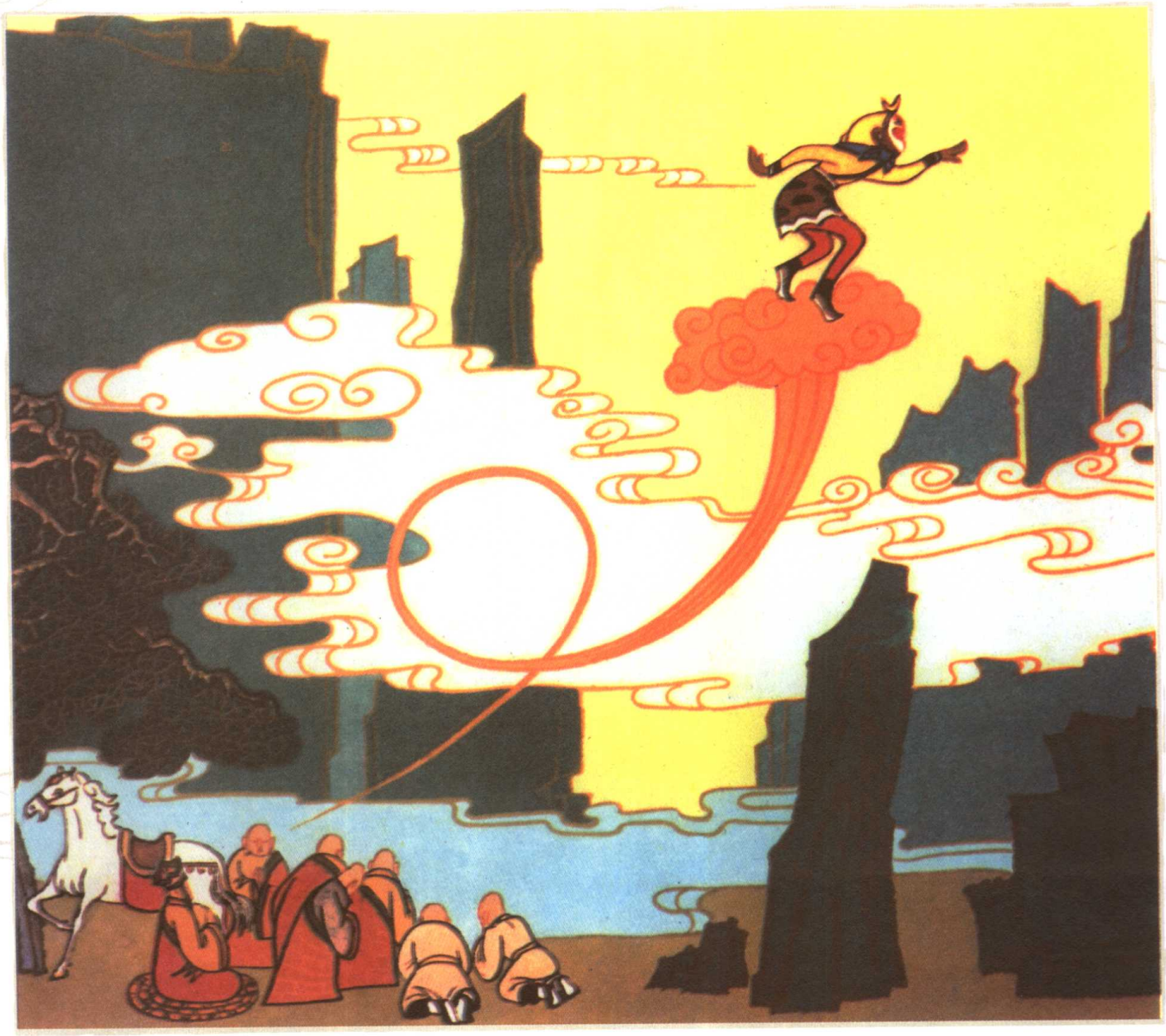
"Sun Wukong," said the Tang Priest angrily, "when a fire starts you should fetch water. How could you blow wind on it?" "The old monk was very wicked," replied Monkey. "If he hadn't started the fire, I wouldn't have blown on it." "The cassock must have been burned up too, then," Xuanzang exclaimed. "No," smiled Sun Wukong. "I kept the abbot's cell safe. Let's take the cassock and leave."

When the Elder of the Golden Pool realized that his monastery had been destroyed and the cassock was nowhere to be found, he was very upset. A young monk came to report, "That Tang Priest didn't die. He's come asking for the cassock." Knowing there would be no escape from Monkey's fury, the abbot smashed his own head against a pillar and died.

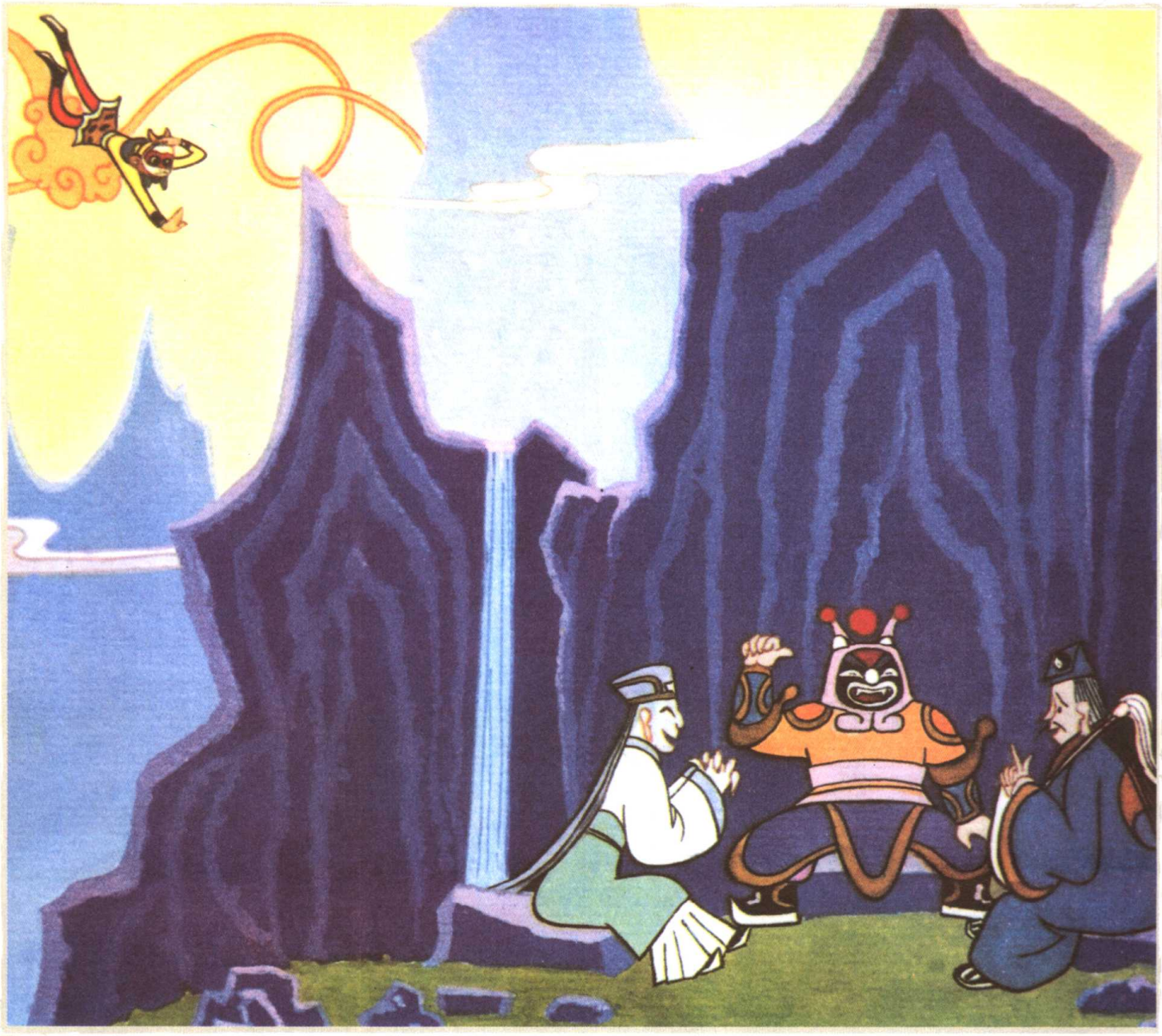


Sun Wukong looked everywhere but couldn't find the cassock. Furiously angry with him, the Tang Priest began to recite the Band-tightening Spell. Monkey fell to the ground in great agony, clutching his head and pleading, "Stop, please. I'll see that you get the cassock back." All the young monks begged the Tang Priest to stop too, and he did.

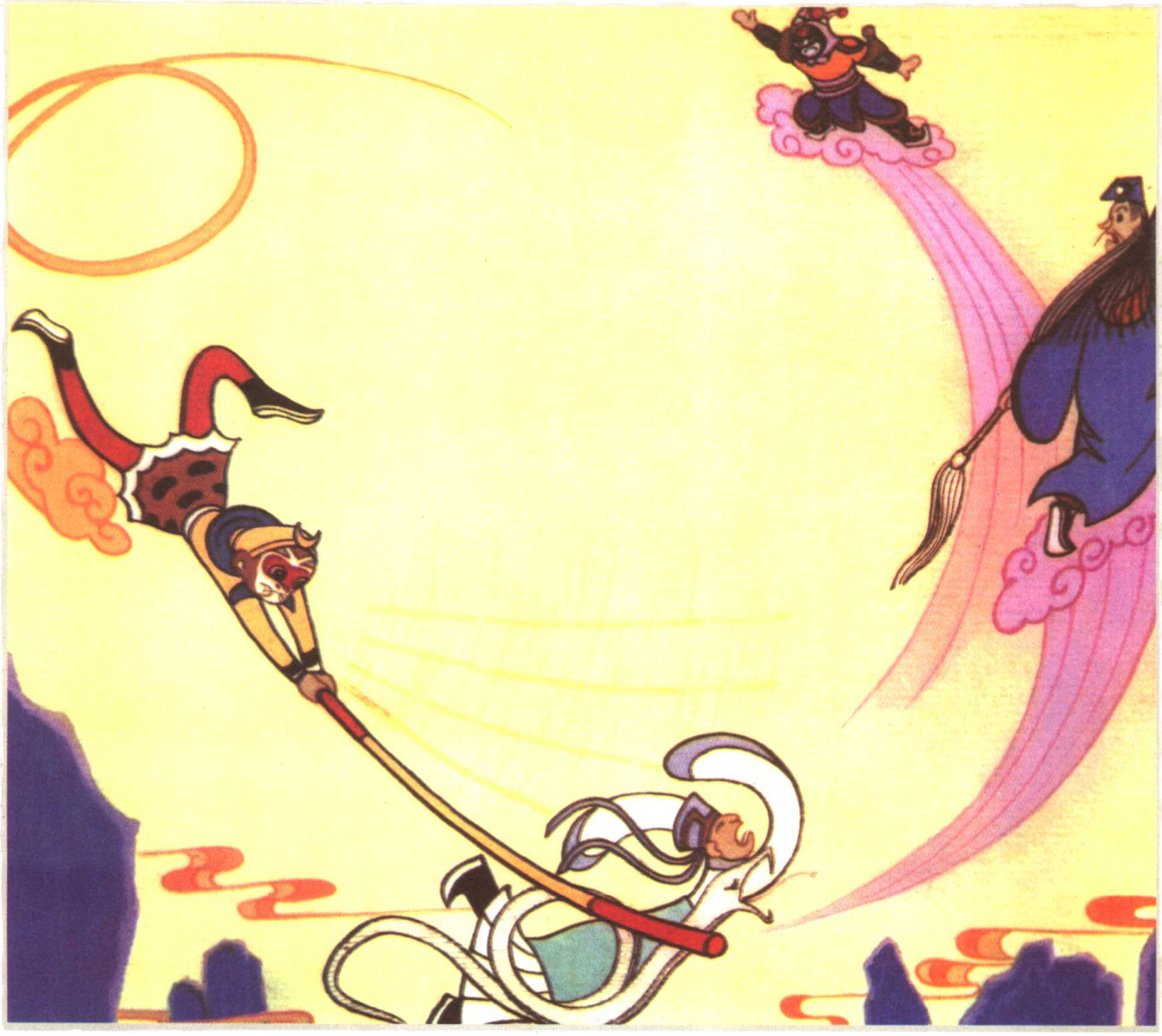
Monkey looked for the cassock again, but could not find it anywhere. He thought for a moment and then asked, "Do you have any monsters around here?" "In the Black Wind Cave of the Black Wind Mountain seven miles south of here lives a Great Black King," said one of the monks. "He's a demon. He often turns himself into a human being and comes here to discuss the Way with us."



"I'm going to have a look," said Monkey. "Take care of my master and the white horse." He leaped up and rode his somersault cloud to the Black Wind Mountain. When they saw that he was an immortal, the young monks were frightened and wished they had not started the fire. They knelt and prayed to Heaven for their lives to be spared.



When Monkey reached the Black Wind Mountain, he saw three monsters — one all black, one in white scholar's robes and one looking like a Taoist priest, Master Emptiness-reached. The black monster smiled and said, "It's my birthday the day after tomorrow. Yesterday I got a beautiful brocade cassock, so I want to invite the two of you to a 'Buddha's Robe Banquet'."

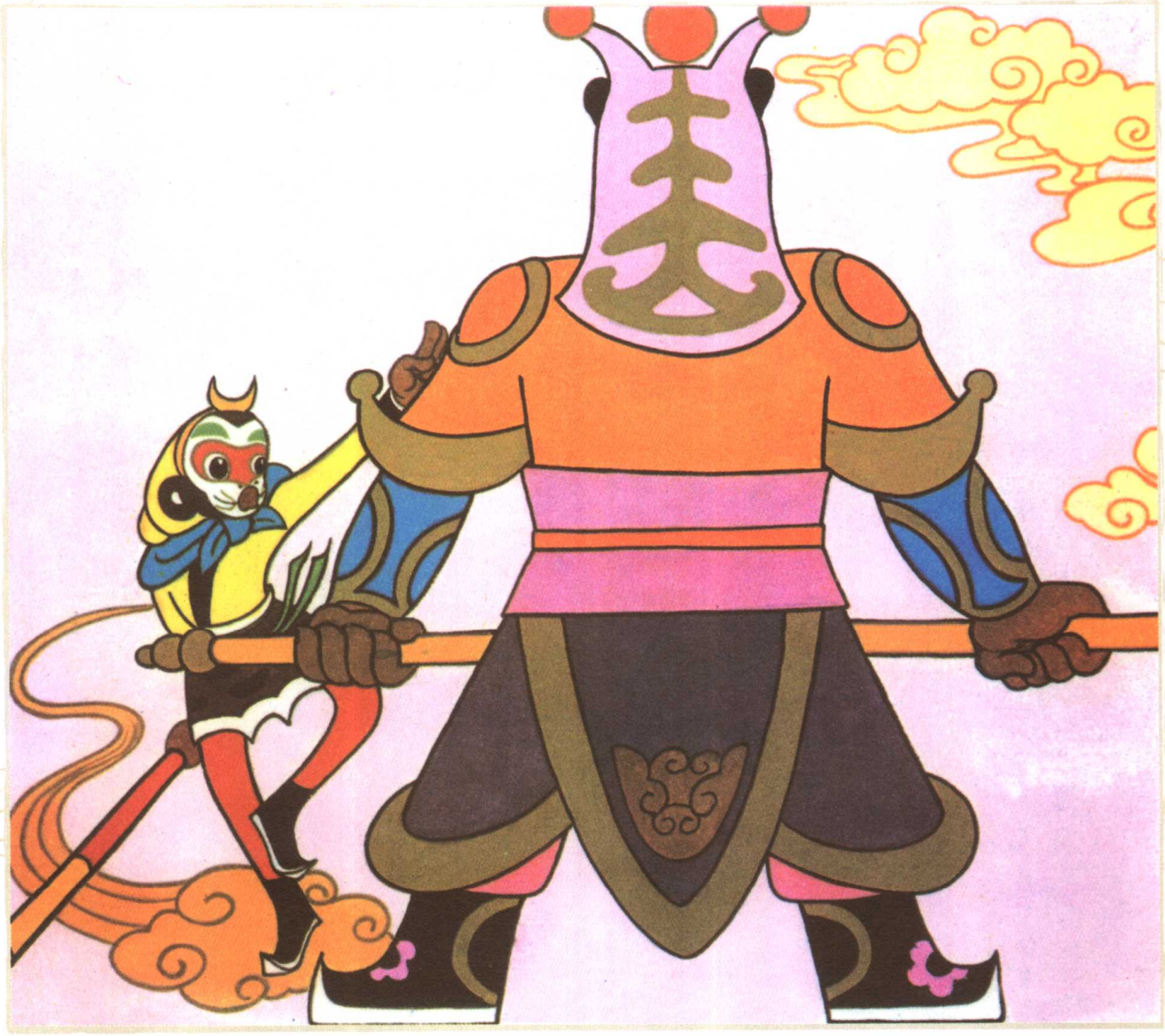


Monkey was so angry he jumped out of his hiding place and shouted, "Monsters, you'd better give that cassock back to me right now." When the three monsters heard this, they tried to flee. The black monster turned into a wind and the Taoist priest rode off on a cloud, so Monkey could only catch the white-robed scholar and kill him with his cudgel.

After rounding several mountain peaks, Sun Wukong found the monster's cave palace. Above the entrance were the words BLACK WIND CAVE. The Monkey King was delighted. He lowered his cloud and shouted, "Open the door!"

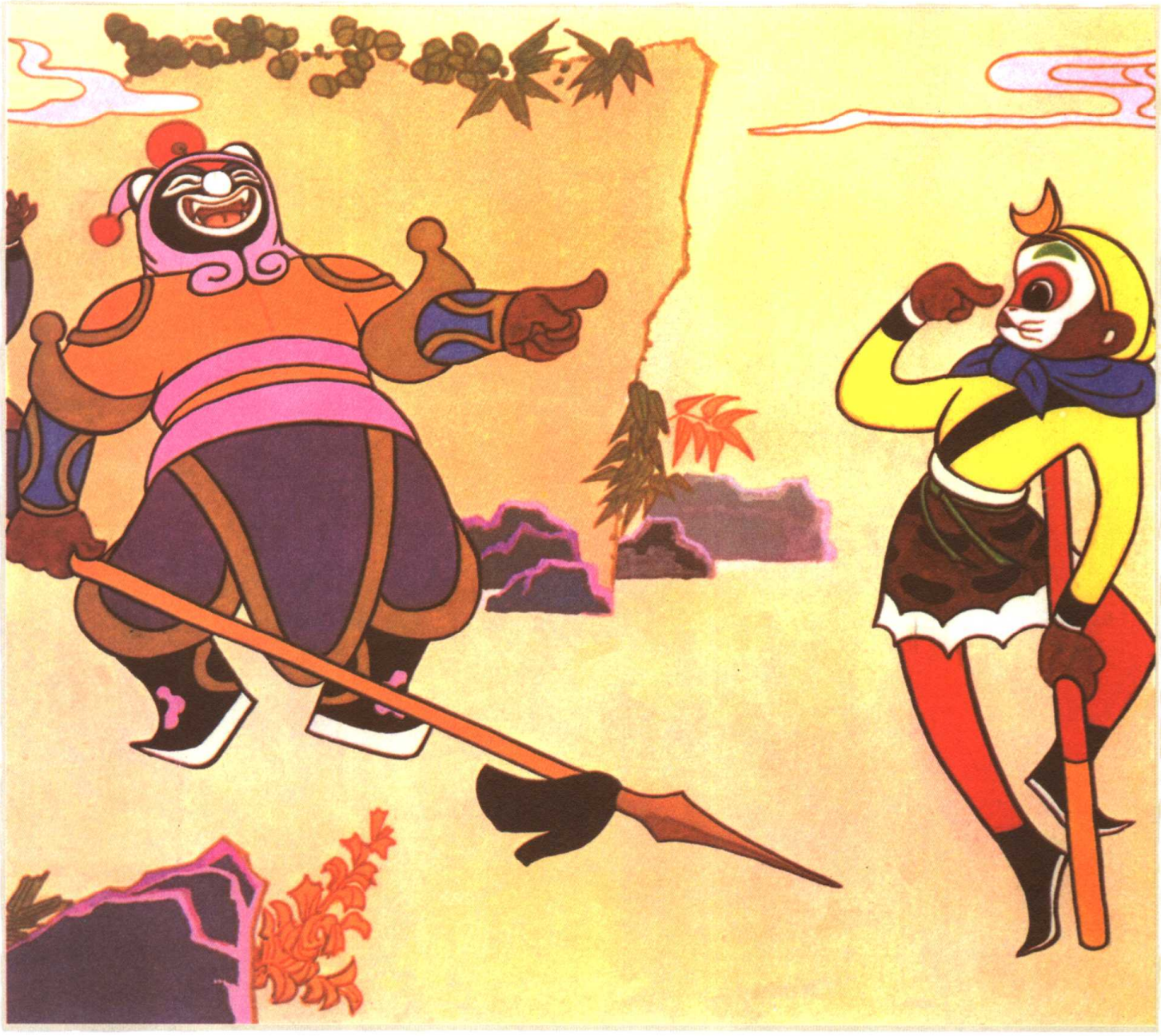
The little devil who was guarding the gates opened the door and asked, "Who are you? How dare you come to our cave?" The Monkey King cursed and shouted, "You wicked devil, go and tell that black monster right now to return the cassock to me or else you'll all soon be dead."

The black monster had just made it back to the cave himself. After hearing the little devil's report he thought, "I wonder where this monkey could have come from. He's got a nerve, shouting at my gate." He put on his armour, took up a black spear and strode out.



The black monster shouted to the Monkey King, "How dare you?" Monkey rushed at him with his cudgel in hand and roared, "No more nonsense. Give me back my master's cassock this instant."

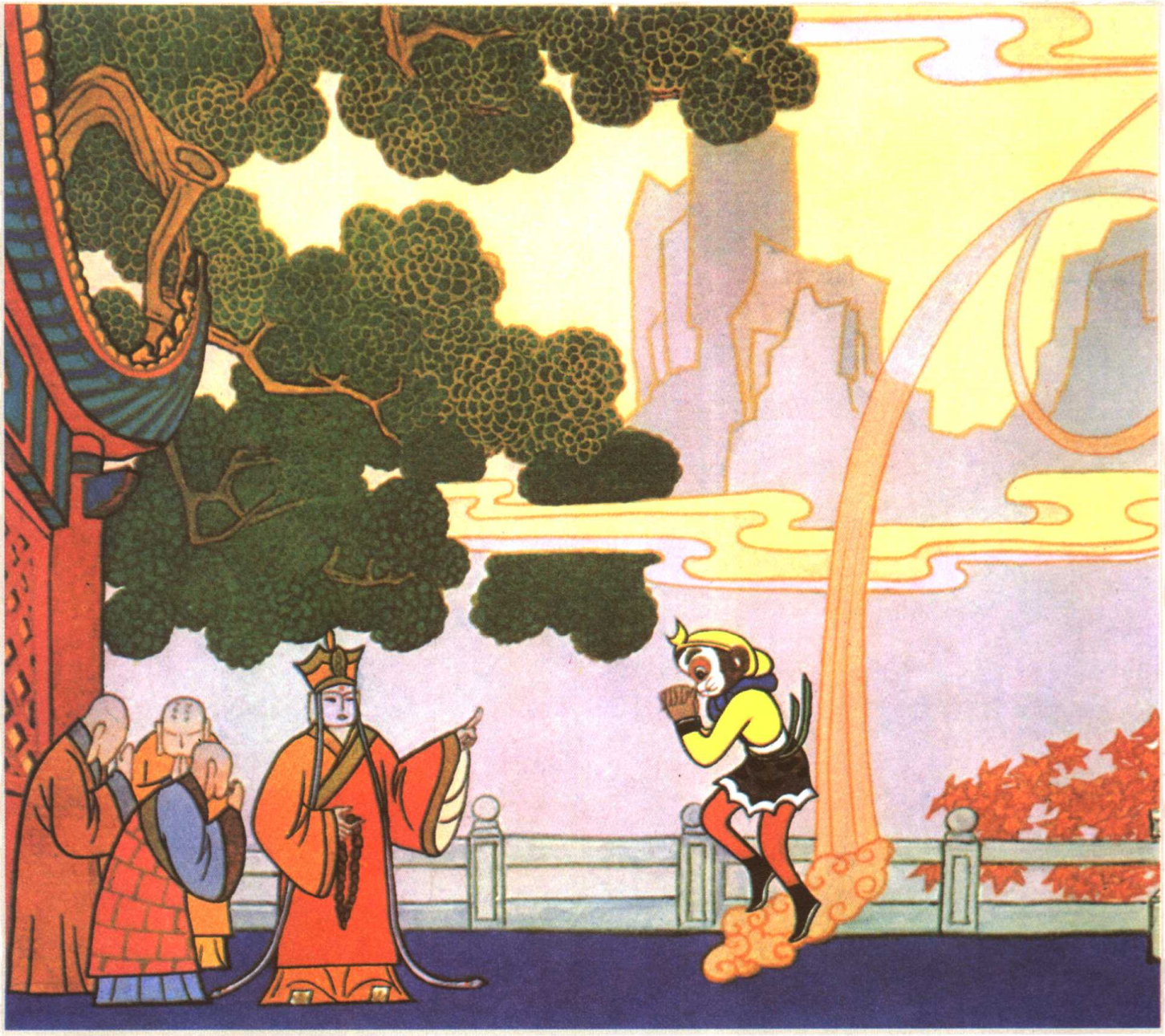
"Where did you lose your cassock?" asked the monster. "What makes you think you can find it here?" "I put it in the back room of the Guanyin Monastery," replied Sun Wukong. "You stole it during the fire for your Buddha's Robe Banquet. I know you've got it. If you give it back at once I'll spare your life, but if you say even half a 'no' I'll smash the Black Wind Mountain and trample your cave flat."



The black monster sneered, "Where are you from? What's your name? What magic powers do you have that you dare to boast like that?" Monkey responded, "I am the disciple of His Highness the Patriarch Xuanzang, the younger brother of the Emperor of the Great Tang. My name is Sun Wukong. If I told you my magic powers, you'd be scared to death." The monster sneered again, saying, "You were the Protector of the Horses who wrecked Heaven, weren't you?"

Being called Protector of the Horses made the Monkey King even more furious. This was the very humble job the Jade Emperor had given him in Heaven, and he felt insulted by it. "You vicious monster," he yelled. "You steal the cassock and refuse to return it, and on top of that you insult your betters. Just hold it where you are while I hit you." The monster twisted away from the blow and thrust his own spear at Sun Wukong. After ten rounds neither of them was winning.

At midday the black monster raised his spear to block the cudgel and said, "Sun Wukong, let's take a break. We'll fight again after lunch." Monkey answered, "Forget it. I won't let you have lunch until you give me back my cassock." But the monster fooled him with a wave of his spear, slipped into the cave, and closed the door tightly behind him.



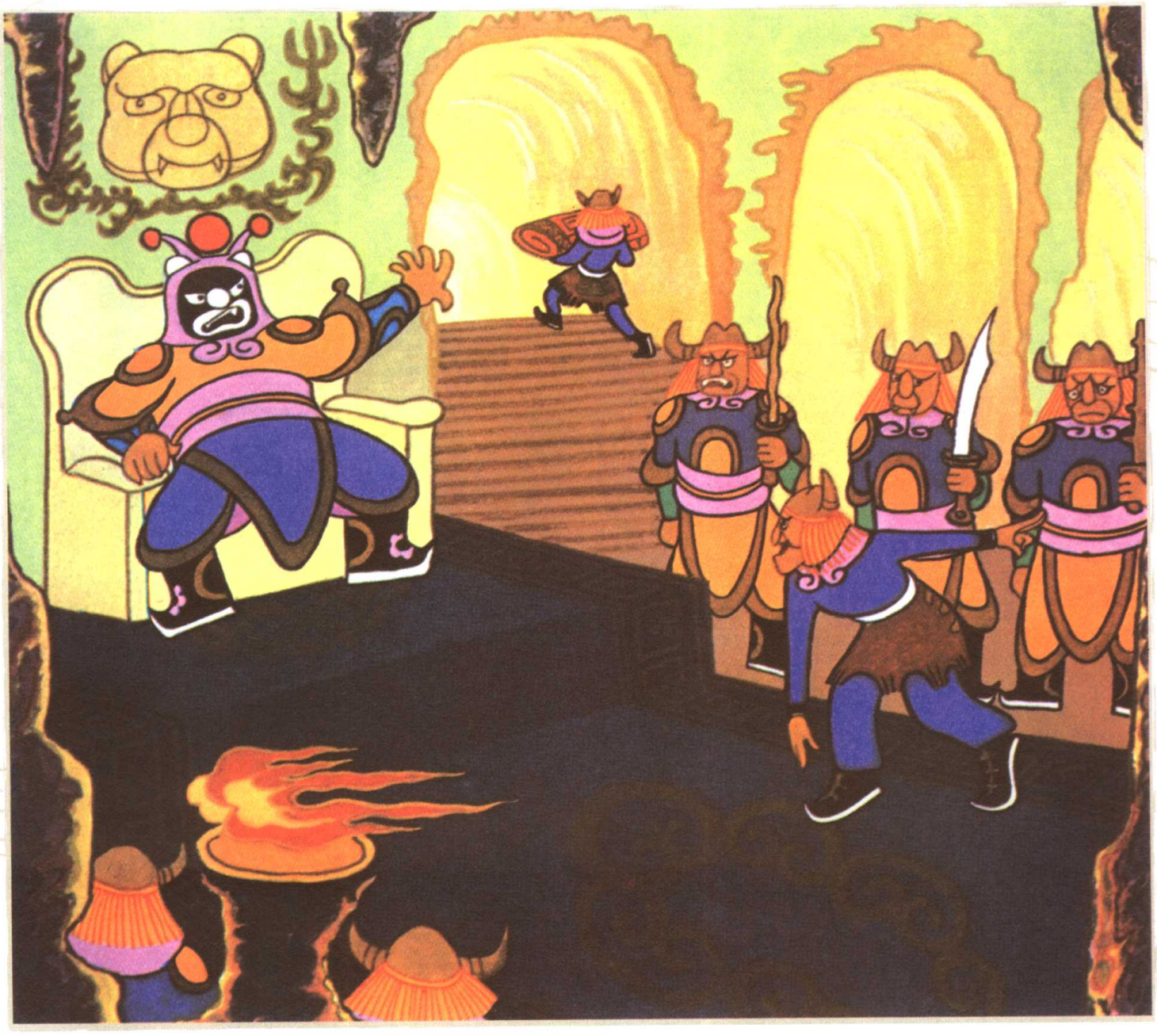
No matter how hard he pushed, the Monkey King couldn't budge the door, so he rode his cloud back to the monastery. "Where is the cassock?" asked the Tang priest. "I know where it is now," replied Sun Wukong. "It was the monster from the Black Wind Mountain who stole it." He told the story of how he tried to get it back from the monster, and all the monks felt relieved, put their hands together and bowed.

"Don't feel so relieved yet," warned Monkey. "You will only have peace and happiness when I get the cassock back and my master is safely on his way. If you don't keep guard all the time, you'll be sorry." "But during the morning when you were away," Xuanzang told him, "they treated me very well. You can go to get the cassock back without worrying about me."

The Monkey King rode a cloud back to the Black Wind Cave. On his way he saw a small devil coming along the main road from the Black Wind Cave with a wooden box under his arm. "There must be something special in that box," thought Sun Wukong, and he killed the small devil with his cudgel.

When Monkey opened the box and saw that inside it was an invitation from the black monster to the Elder of the Golden Pool to the Buddha's Robe Banquet, he burst out laughing. "So that abbot had been scheming with the black monster. I'll turn myself into his double and trick the devils into giving me the cassock back," he said to himself.

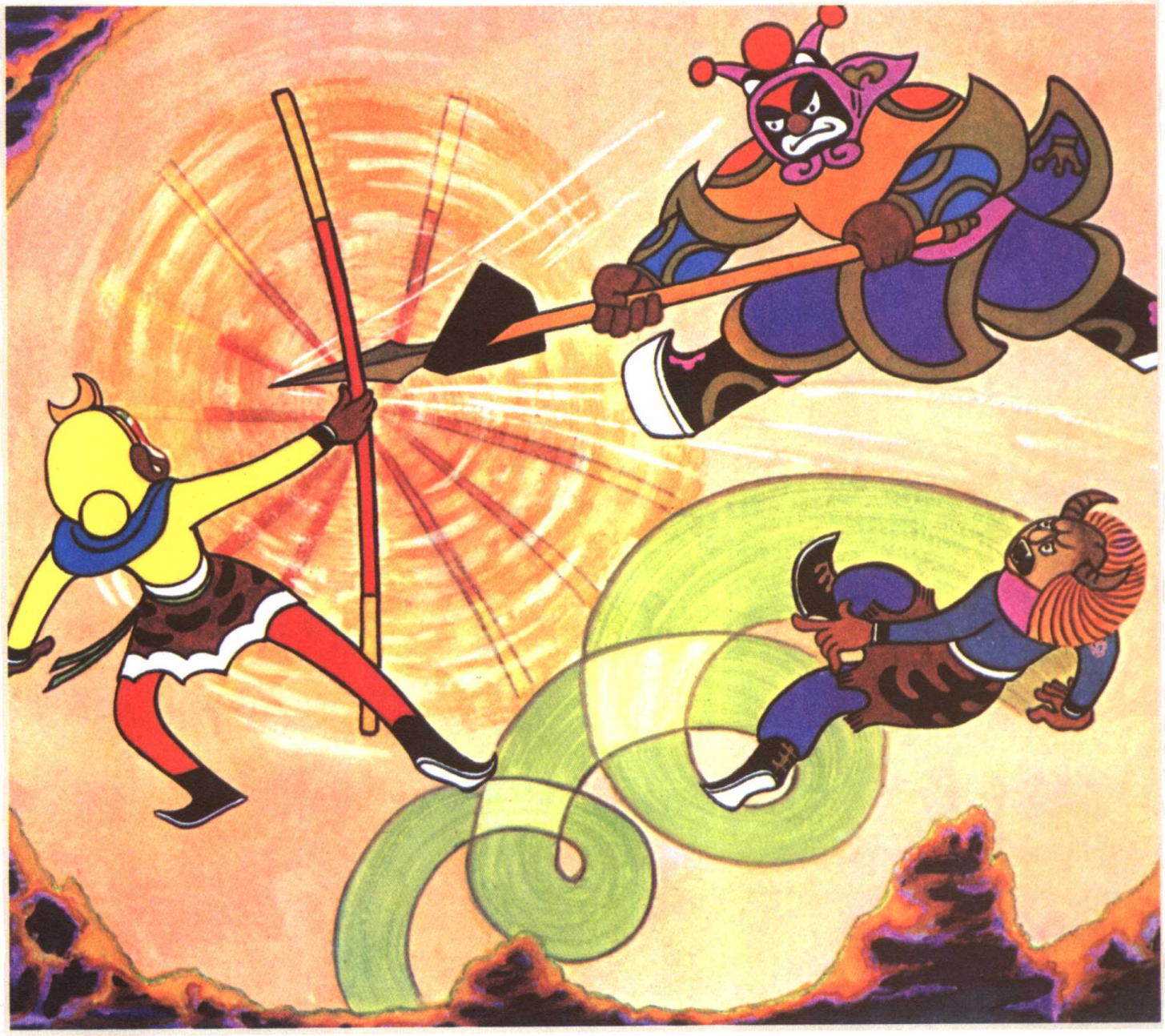
Sun Wukong recited a magical spell that turned him into an exact double of the Elder of the Golden Pool. He strode to the gate of the cave and shouted, "Open the door," imitating the abbot's voice.



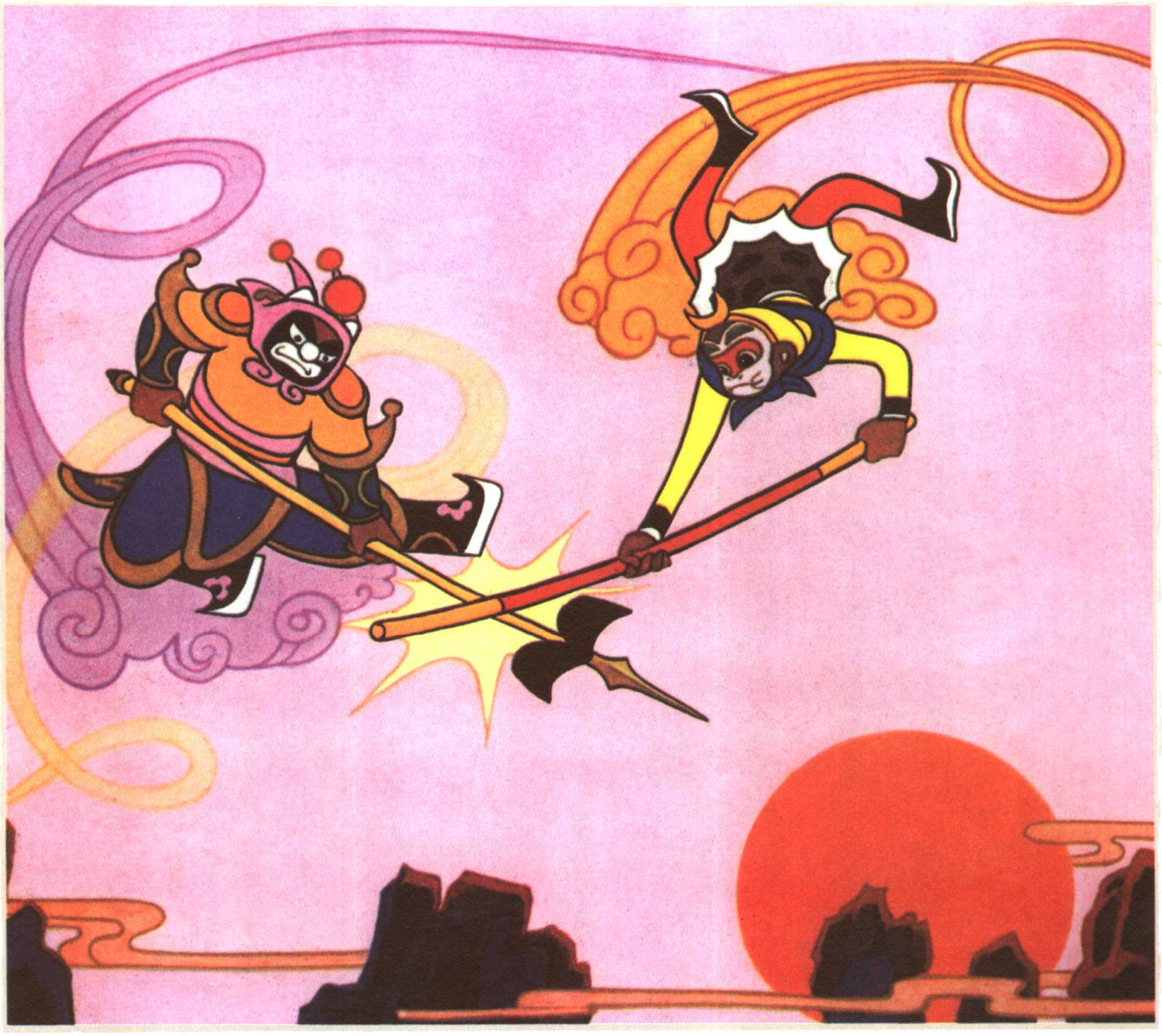
The small devil peeped out of the door and hurried to report to the monster, "Your Majesty, the Elder of the Golden Pool has arrived." The monster was astounded. "I just sent the invitation. It can't have reached him yet. Sun Wukong must have asked him to come here for the cassock. Quick, hide it somewhere."

Sun Wukong entered the third gate of the cave and saw the monster, who was wearing a dark green gown. On his head was a soft purple hat and on his feet a pair of deerskin boots. After the monster came down the steps to greet him, Monkey said, "I was on my way to visit you when I ran into the man bringing me your invitation to the Buddha's Robe Banquet. I hurried over to take a look at your cassock."

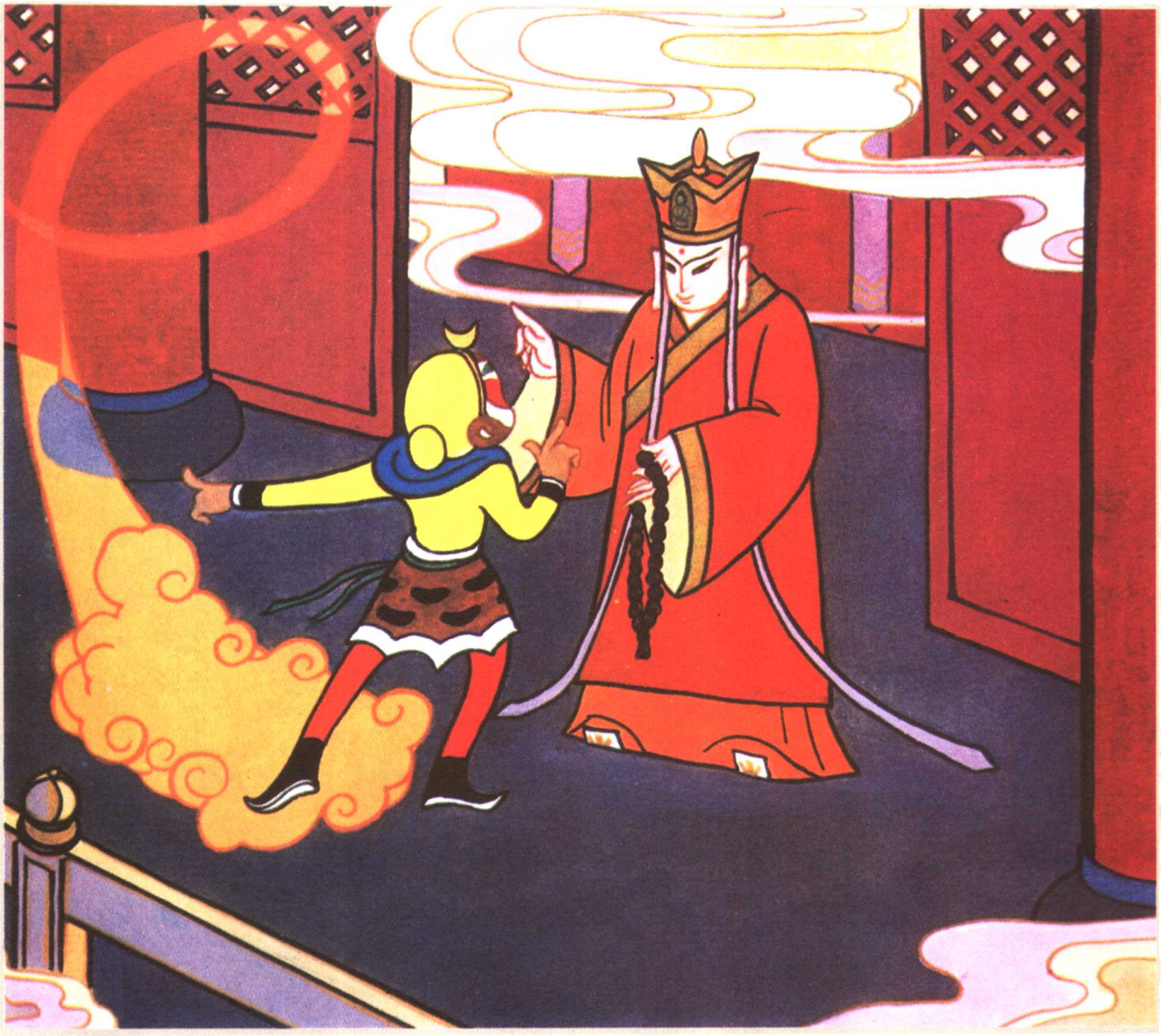
The black monster laughed and said, "My cassock used to belong to the Tang Priest who has been staying with you. You must have seen it already." "It was dark last night and I couldn't see it very clearly," replied Sun Wukong, "and later, because of the fire and confusion, I couldn't find it anywhere. When I heard that Your Majesty has got hold of it, I came over to have a look."



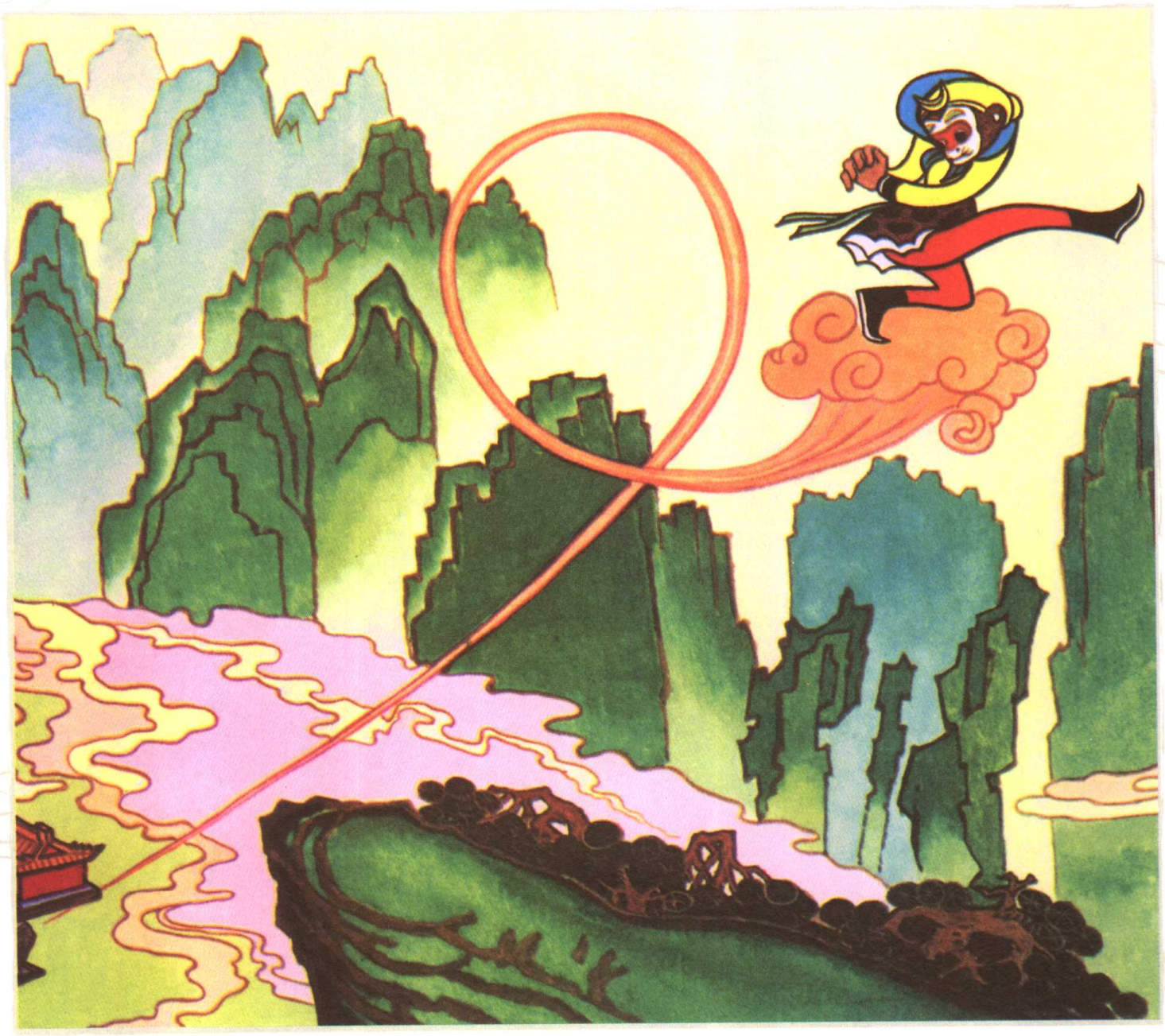
Before Sun Wukong finished, a small devil on patrol rushed in and announced, "Your Majesty, a terrible thing has happened. Sun Wukong has killed the brother who was taking the invitation card, disguised himself as the Elder of the Golden Pool and come here to trick the cassock out of you." At this the black monster threw aside his gown and thrust his spear at the Monkey King. Monkey changed back to himself, took the cudgel out from behind his ear, and hit back.



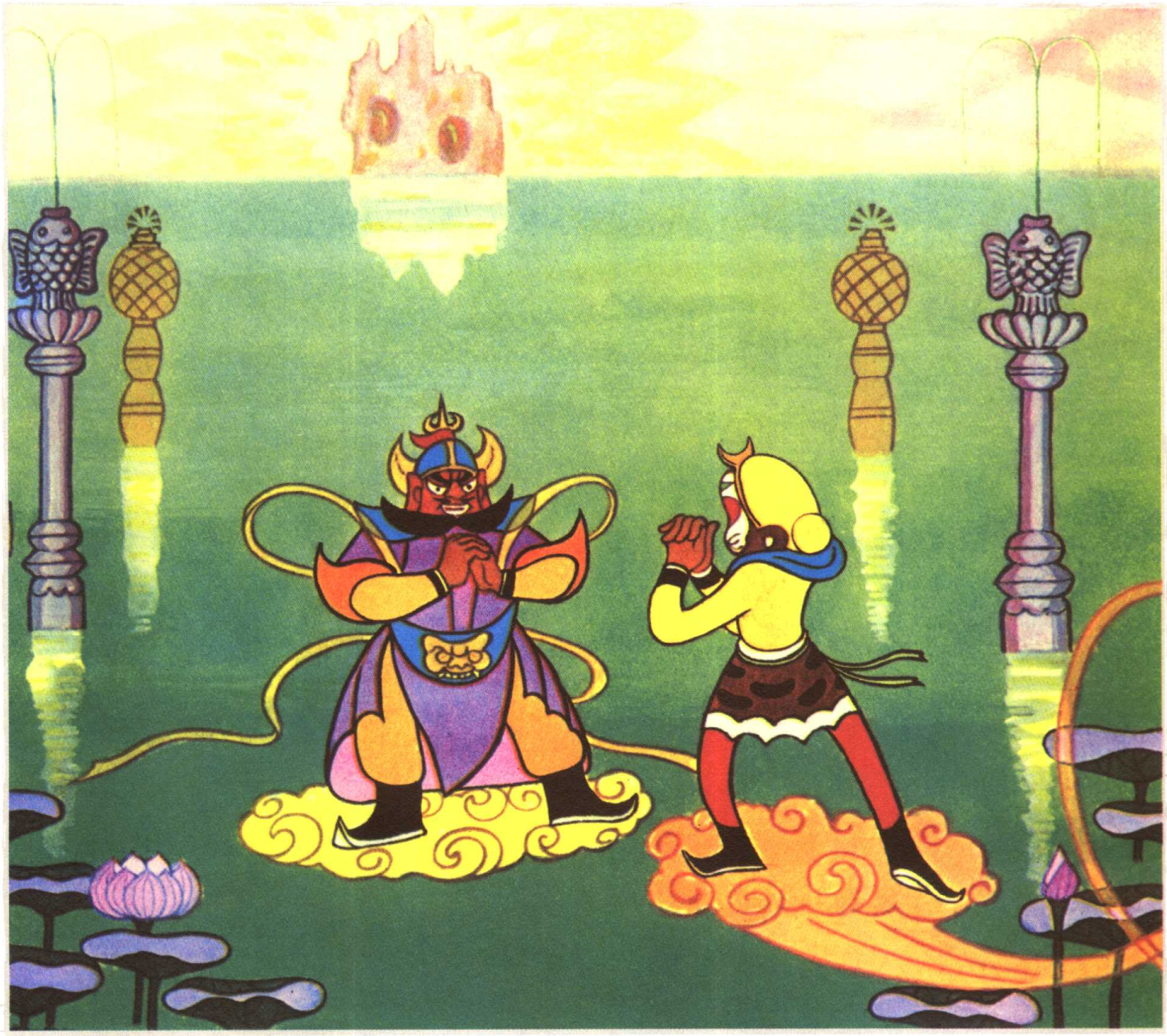
The Monkey King and the black monster fought from the top of the mountain to the top of a cloud. When the sun began to set they were still fighting, and neither was winning. "Sun Wukong, it's late now," cried the monster. "Go away and come back early tomorrow and then we'll see which of us is the winner." Monkey didn't want him to leave, but when he hit at the monster, who changed into a puff of wind and blew back into the cave.



Sun Wukong was afraid that his master might be worried about him, so he went back to the monastery. When the Tang Priest saw him returning empty-handed, he asked, "Which of you was better, you or he?" Sun Wukong replied, "I'm not much better than he is, so we stayed pretty evenly matched. But don't worry, I have my ways getting the cassock back."



Early the next morning, just as Monkey was about to slip out, the Tang Priest grabbed him and asked, "Where are you going?" "I've been thinking," replied Sun Wukong, "this is the Bodhisattva's monastery and all the monks here worship her. How could she let a monster live so close by? I'm going to ask her to get the cassock back." Sun Wukong said goodbye to his master and flew straight to the Southern Sea on a cloud.



In an instant, the Monkey King had reached the vast waves of the Southern Sea and the towering peaks and clouds of Guanyin's magic island. While he was looking around, a god stepped forward to greet him and said, "I thought you were escorting the Tang Priest to the West to fetch the true scriptures. What are you doing here?" "I had some trouble on the way," answered Sun Wukong, "so I came here to see the Bodhisattva. Please tell her I'm here."

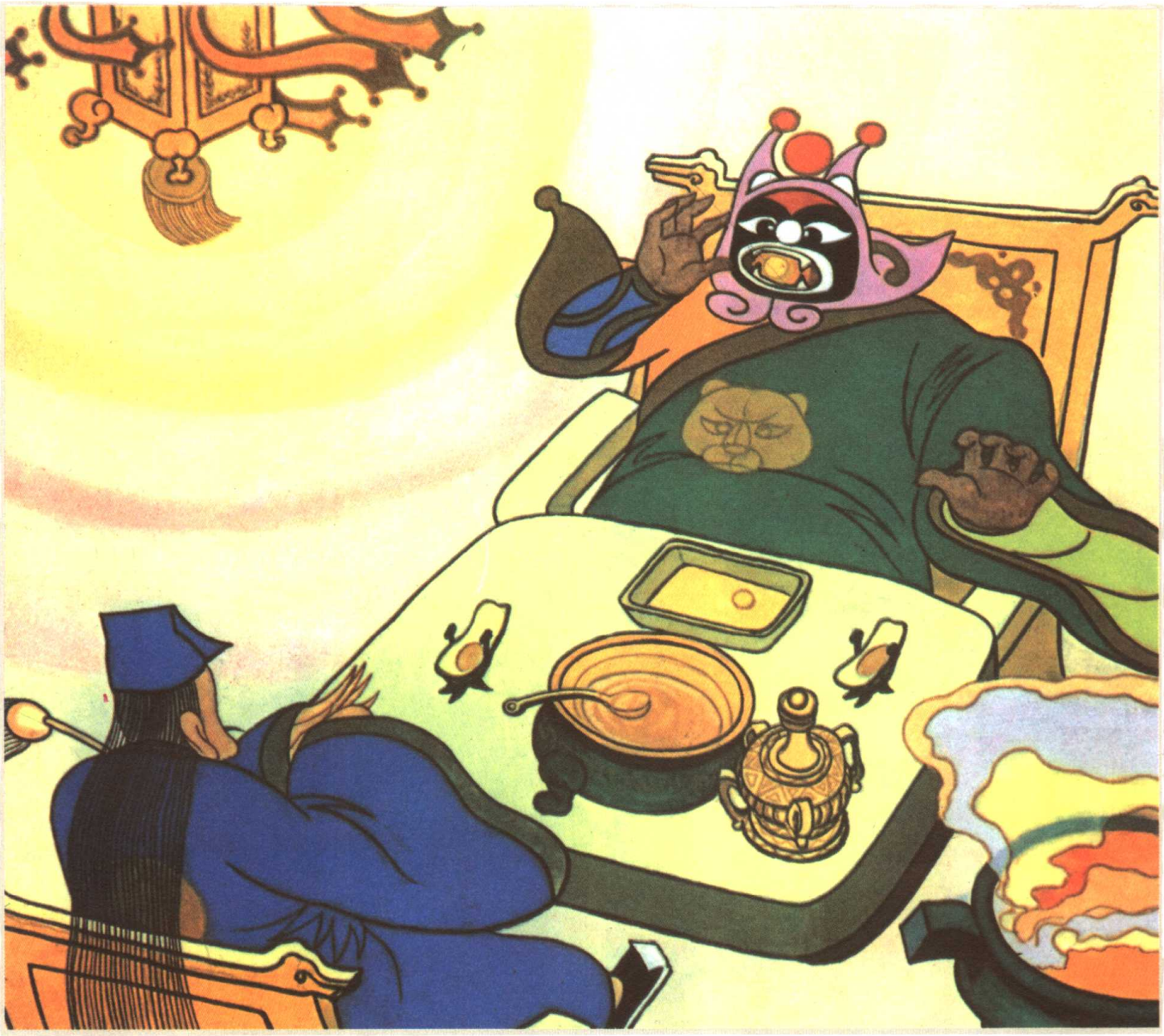
The Bodhisattva listened to Sun Wukong's story and told him off. "You really have got a cheek, asking me to get the cassock for you. You were showing off the treasure, you blew a wind that burned down my monastery, and now you have the nerve to try making trouble here." Monkey hastily bowed to her and begged her to help him against the monster of the Black Wind Cave.

"All right then, for the sake of the Tang Priest I'll go with you," she agreed. Monkey thanked her again and again and rode a cloud back to the Black Wind Mountain together with the Bodhisattva.

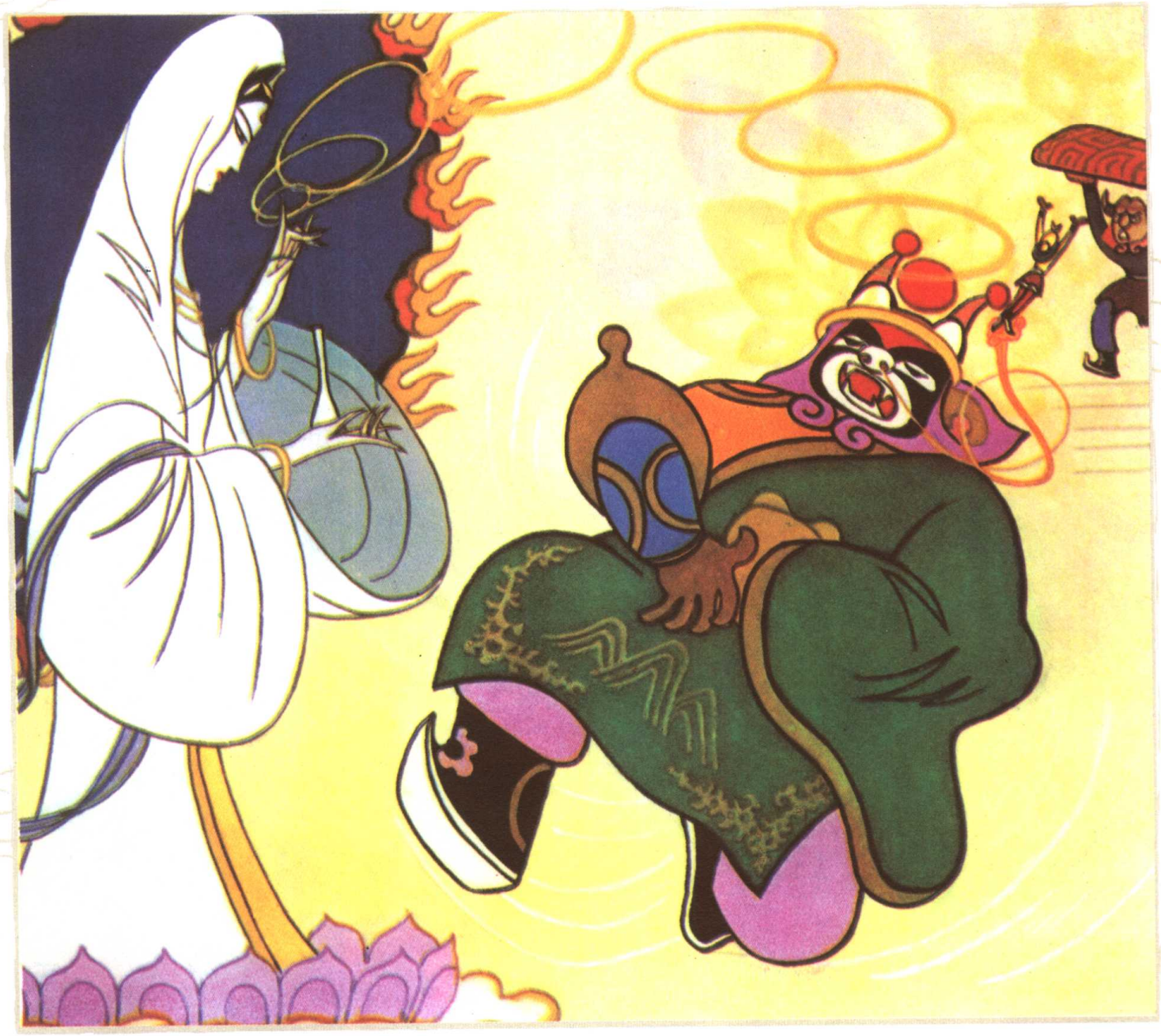
On their way they encountered the Taoist priest, Master Emptiness-reached. He was carrying a glass tray on which were two pills that could make people live for ever. As soon as Sun Wukong saw him, he struck him on the head with his cudgel and killed him. "Why did you have to kill him?" objected the Bodhisattva. "He did you no harm." "I saw him yesterday," explained the Monkey King. "He's a friend of that black monster. He was coming to celebrate the black monster's birthday."

"I have an idea," suggested Sun Wukong to the Bodhisattva. "Why don't you turn into this Master Emptiness-reached? I'll eat one of those pills and turn myself into a pill bigger than the other one. You give the big pill to the monster to eat. Then if he refuses to hand over the cassock I can make trouble in his stomach." The Bodhisattva nodded in agreement.

In a breath of clear wind the Bodhisattva became the Taoist priest and the Monkey King became a big pill of long life. As the Bodhisattva walked towards the cave with the glass tray in her hands, she saw that the cave was set in beautiful surroundings. "Hmm, this monster must have an ounce of faith," she thought and felt sorry for him.



When the monster heard that the Taoist priest had arrived, he came out to greet him. The two sat down together and the Bodhisattva congratulated him. "This humble priest has two pills of immortality to offer you and he wishes Your Majesty a thousand years of life," she said, handing the black monster the larger pill, which rolled down his throat by itself.

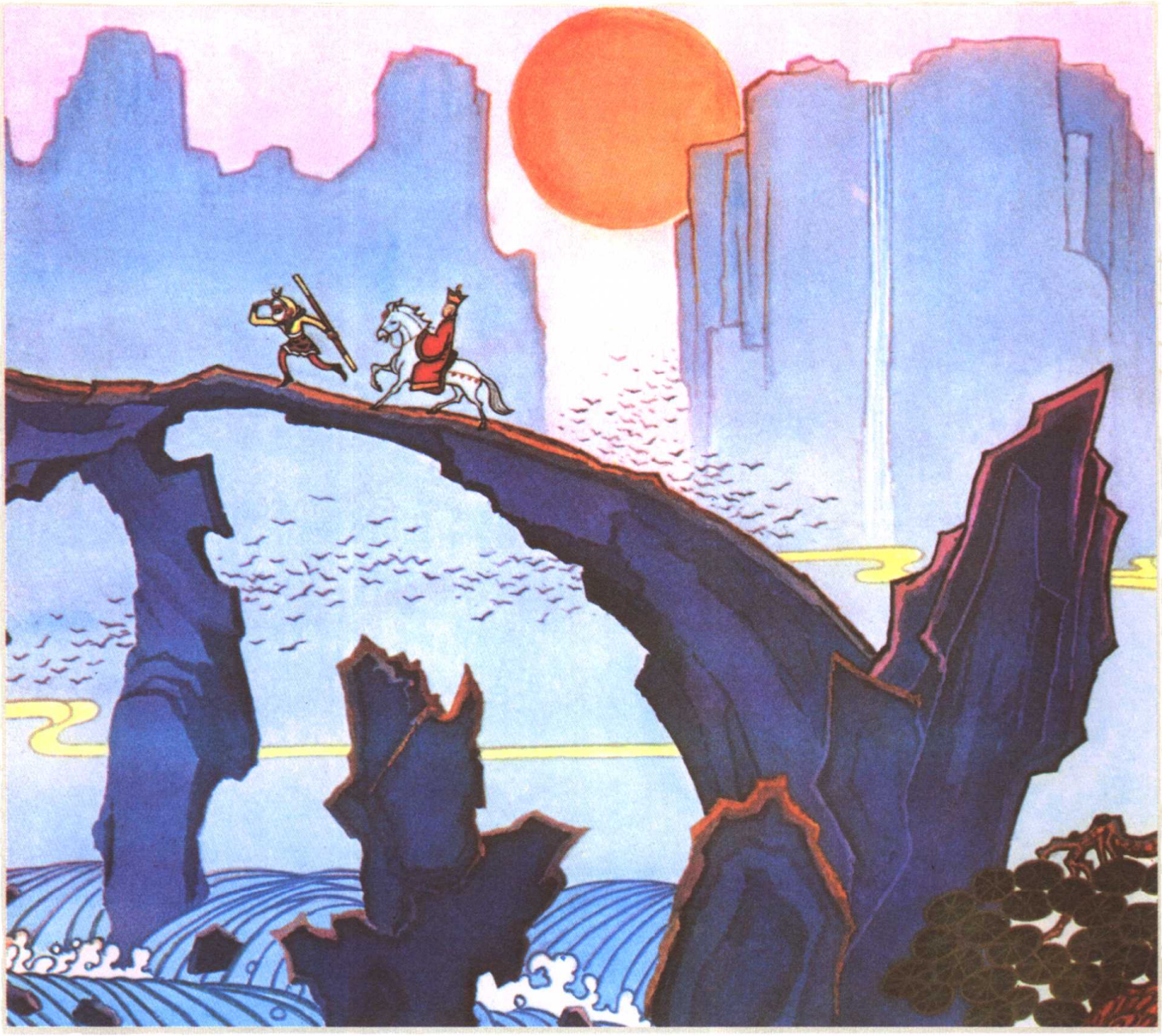


At once Sun Wukong began to jump about in the monster's stomach. The pain was more than the black monster could stand. The Bodhisattva turned back into herself and took the cassock from him. Only then did the Monkey King come out through the monster's nostrils.

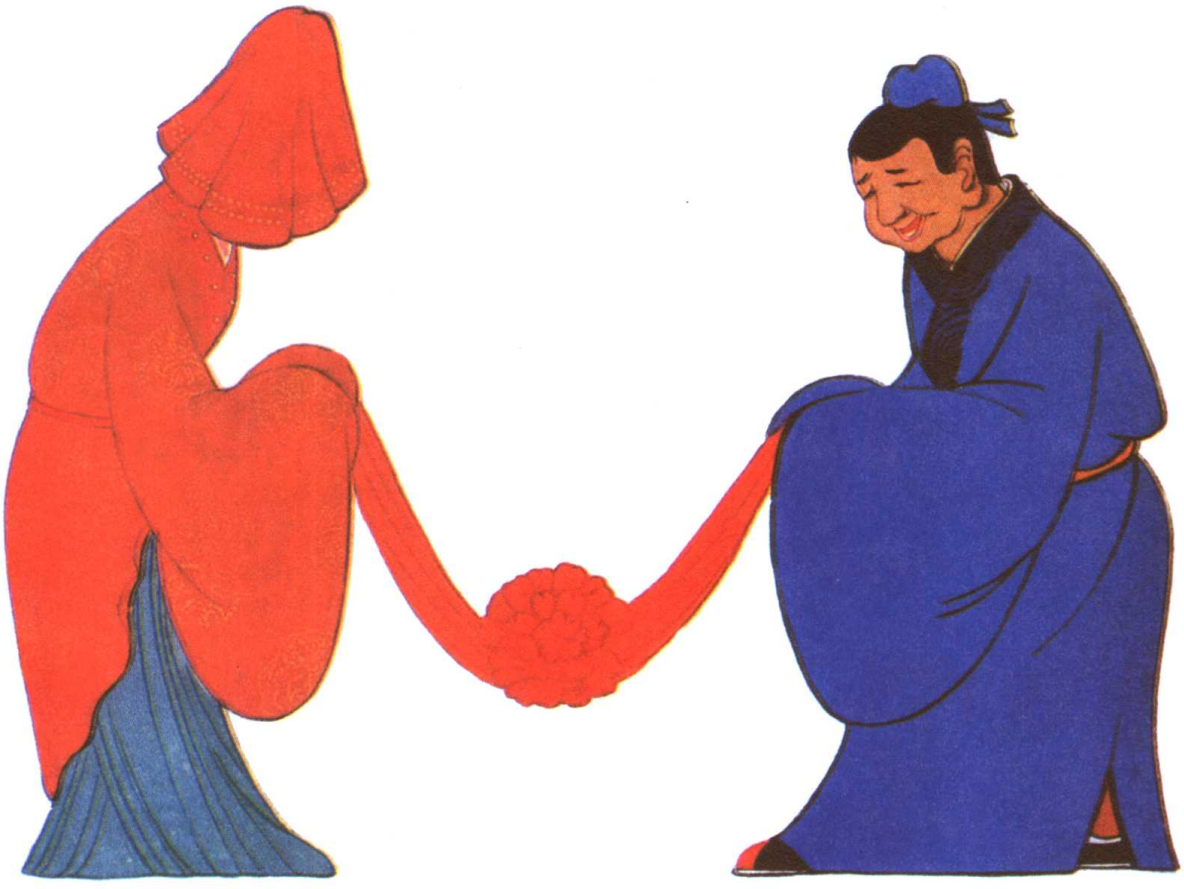
The Bodhisattva said to the monster, "You beast, will you be a good Buddhist now?" "With all my heart," replied the black monster. "Please spare my life." But Sun Wukong had raised his cudgel and was about to hit him when the Bodhisattva stopped him, "Don't kill him — I need him to take care of my Potaraka Island for me."

Once the Bodhisattva had subdued the black monster, she flew right back to the Southern Sea on a holy cloud. The Monkey King said goodbye to the Bodhisattva and rushed to the Black Wind Cave with the cassock. The small devils had already scattered in fright. Sun Wukong gathered some dry twigs, piled them around the cave, set them alight, and turned the Black Wind Cave into a Red Glow Cave.

Just when the Tang Priest was beginning to get anxious about Sun Wukong, he saw the Monkey King coming down from the air in some colourful clouds. "Master, I've got the cassock back," Monkey shouted. Xuanzang was delighted and all the monks said happily, "Good, good, now our lives are safe."

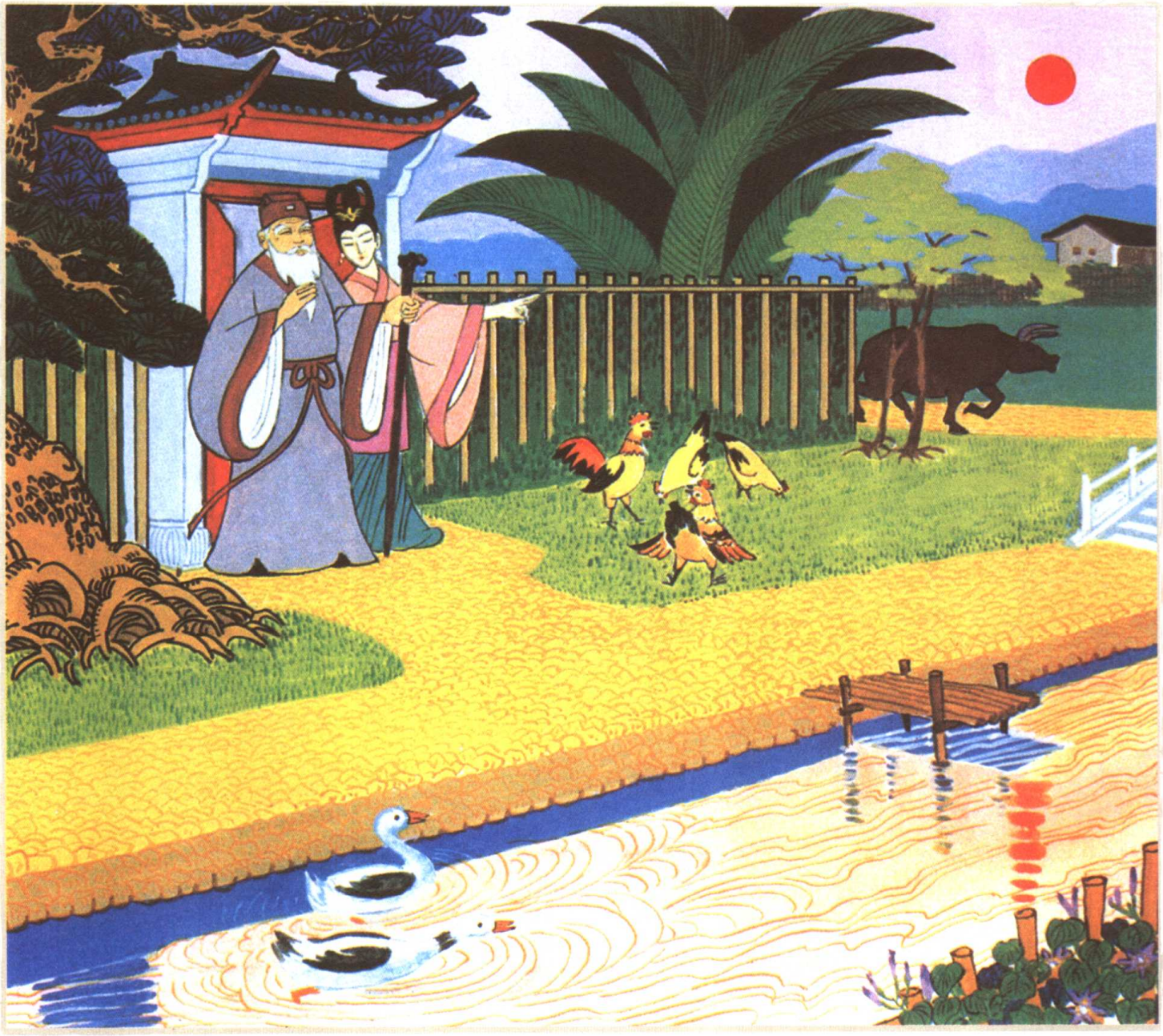


The next morning Master and disciple left the Guanyin Monastery, hurrying West. Of course, their journey was far from dull. If you want to know what adventures lay in store for them, read the explanation in the next instalment.

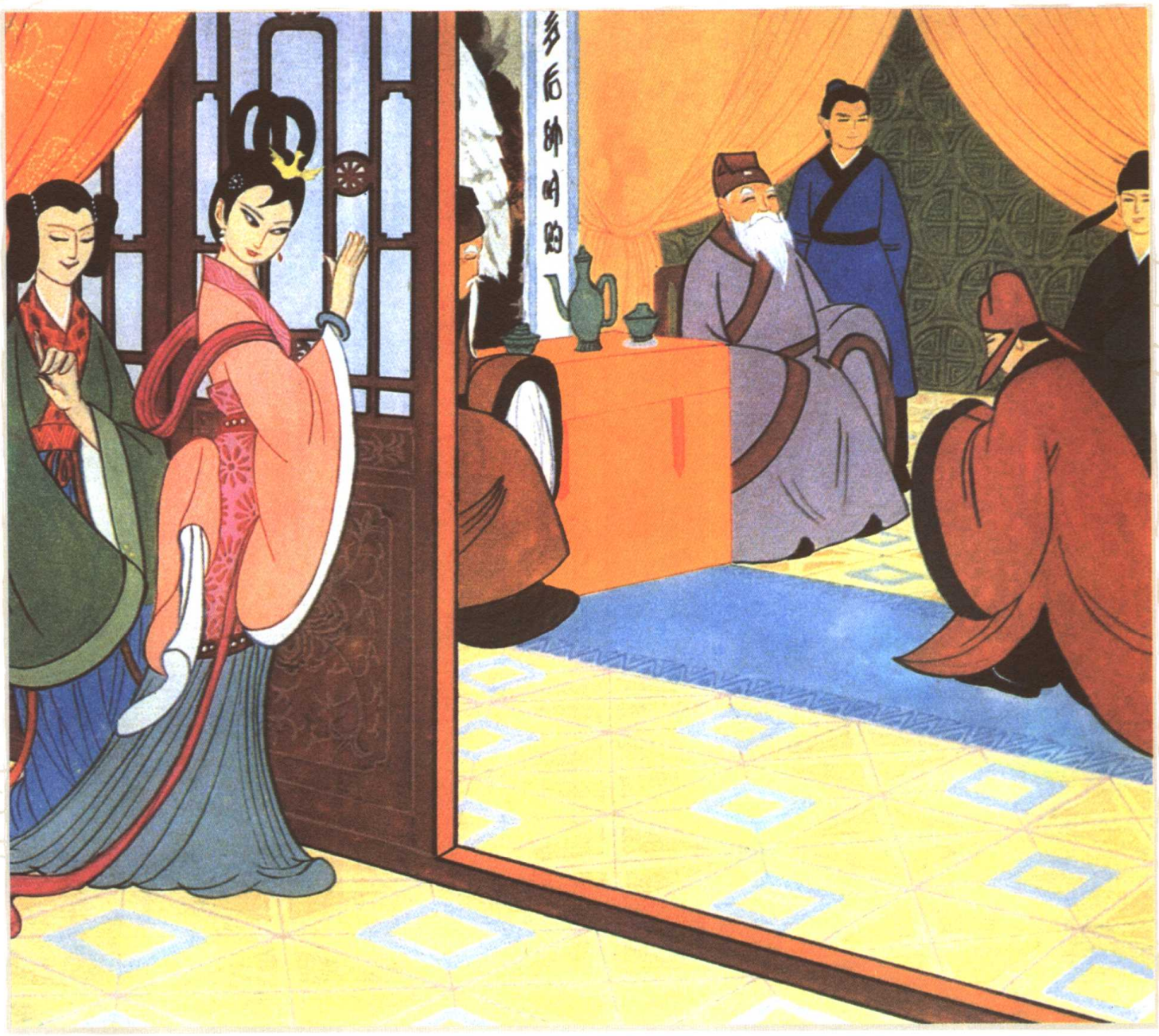


The Coming of Pig

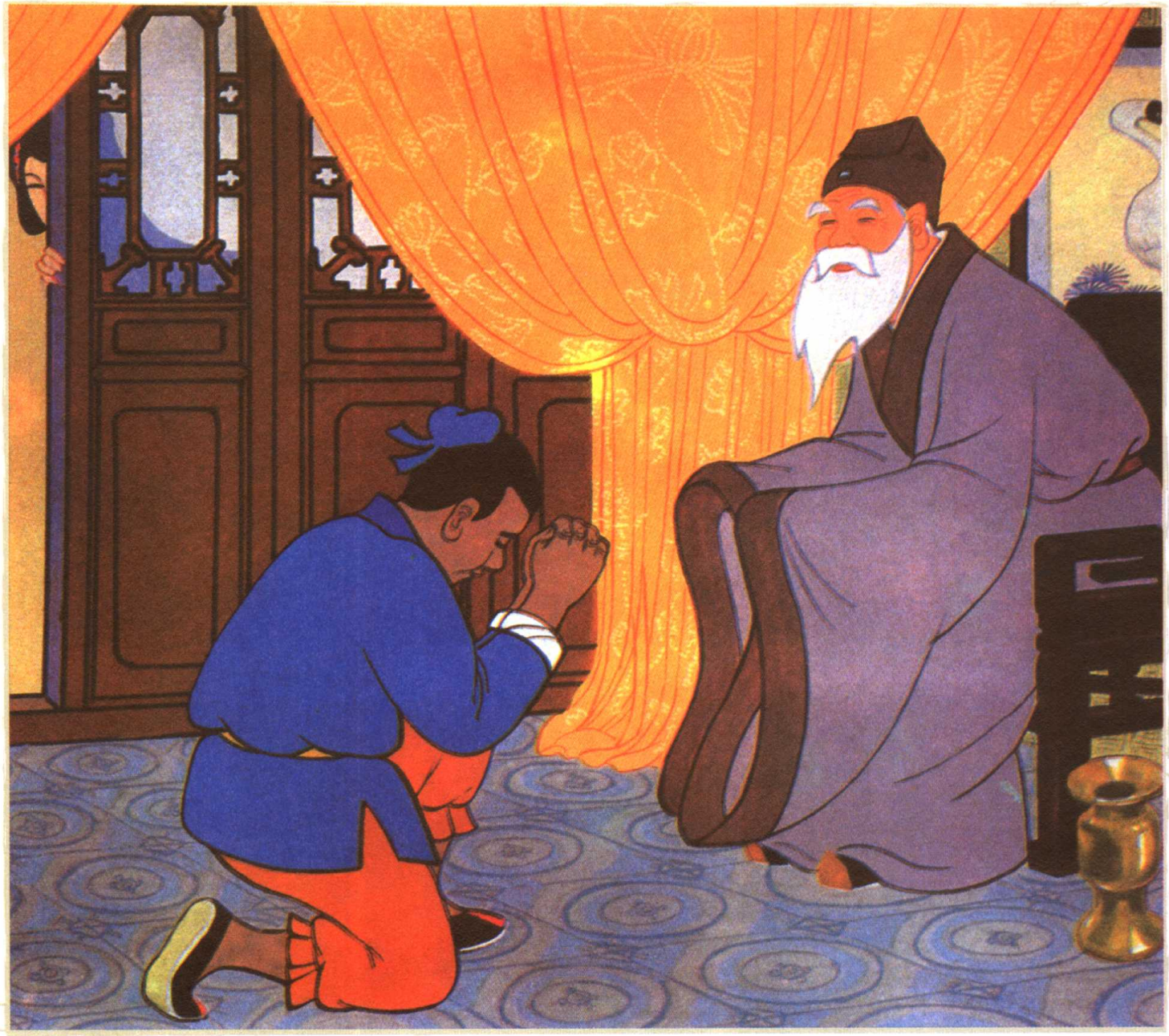
The Coming of Pig, tells how the Monkey uses his magic powers to win over a monster who has married and imprisoned Squire Gao's third daughter in Old Gao Village. The Tang Priest then takes the monster, who turns out to be Zhu Bajie, or Pig, as his second disciple. Together Monkey, Pig, and the Tang Priest continue the journey to the West to obtain the Buddhist scriptures.



In the country of Stubet, in Old Gao Village, there lived an old man called Squire Gao. His wife had died young leaving three daughters, but no son. The first and second daughters had married and now lived far away from their father. Only the youngest daughter, Blue Orchid, remained with him.



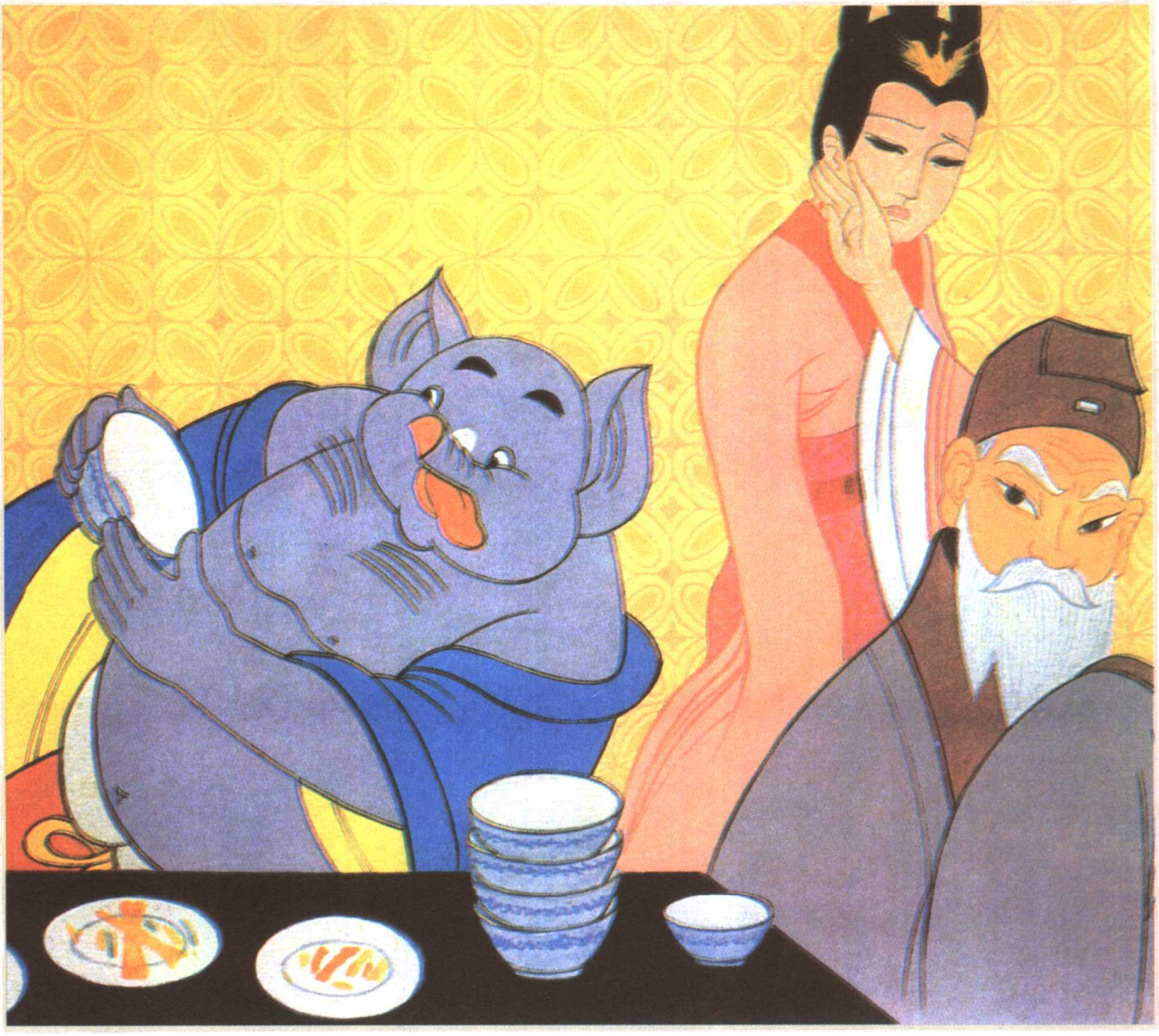
When she reached the age of seventeen, Blue Orchid was very beautiful. Many people went to Squire Gao's home to ask for his daughter's hand, but he turned them all down. He was reluctant to marry his third daughter off, and wanted her very much to marry someone who would live with them, support him in his old age, look after the household and do jobs about the place.



One day an honest looking, dark skinned young fellow turned up and introduced himself. He said that his name was Zhu. He had no parents or brothers, and wanted to marry Blue Orchid and live in their house. Squire Gao was very pleased and offered him his daughter's hand.

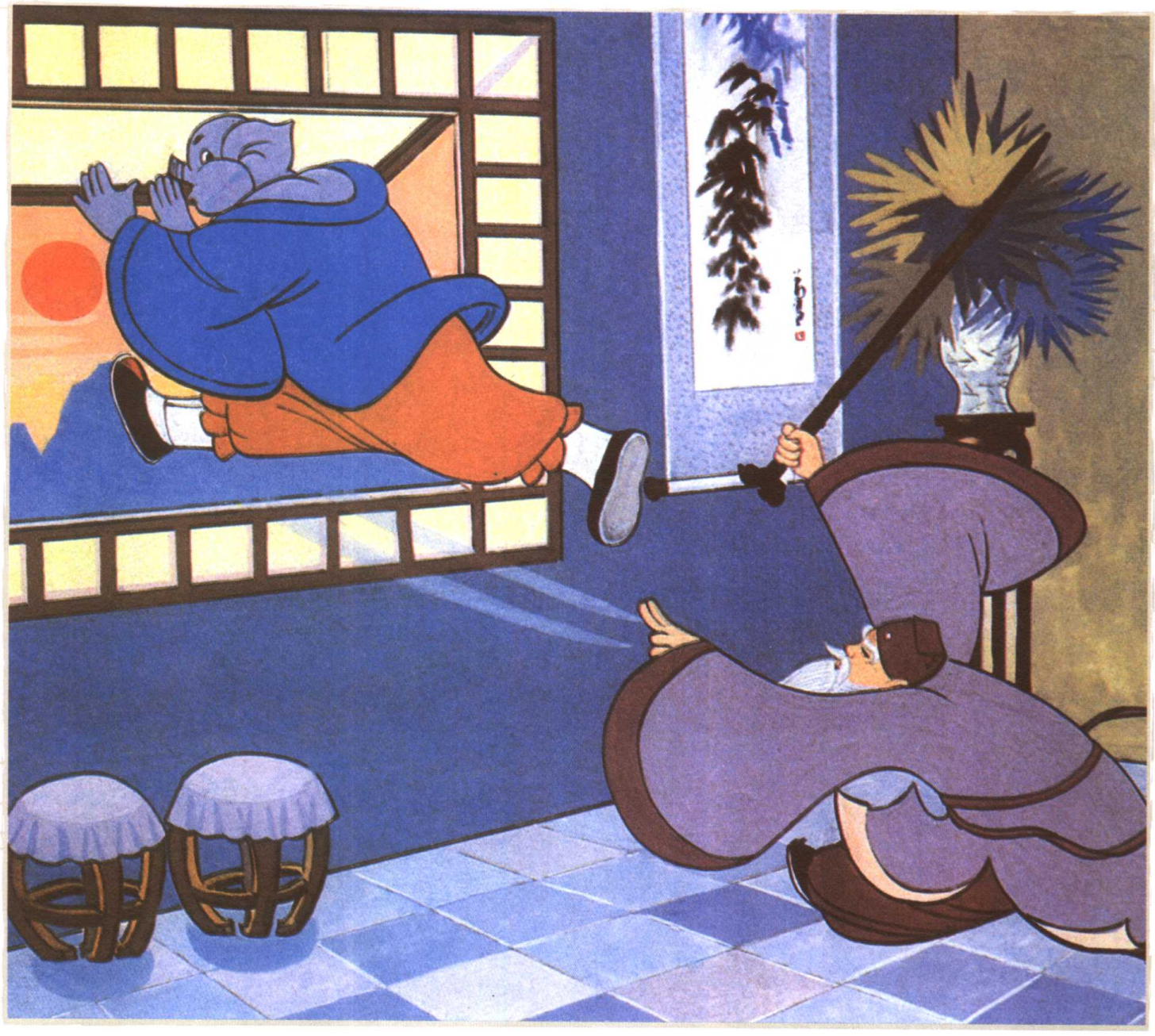
The wedding was very lively. Squire Gao had his house decorated with lanterns and coloured streamers, and invited many people to dinner. All evening he was grinning from ear to ear.

From the moment Zhu became a member of Squire Gao's family, he worked very hard. He was good at all kinds of farm work, such as ploughing and hoeing. While other people used oxen to plough, he was so strong that he never needed to use them. Squire Gao told whoever he happened to meet he was a very lucky old man.



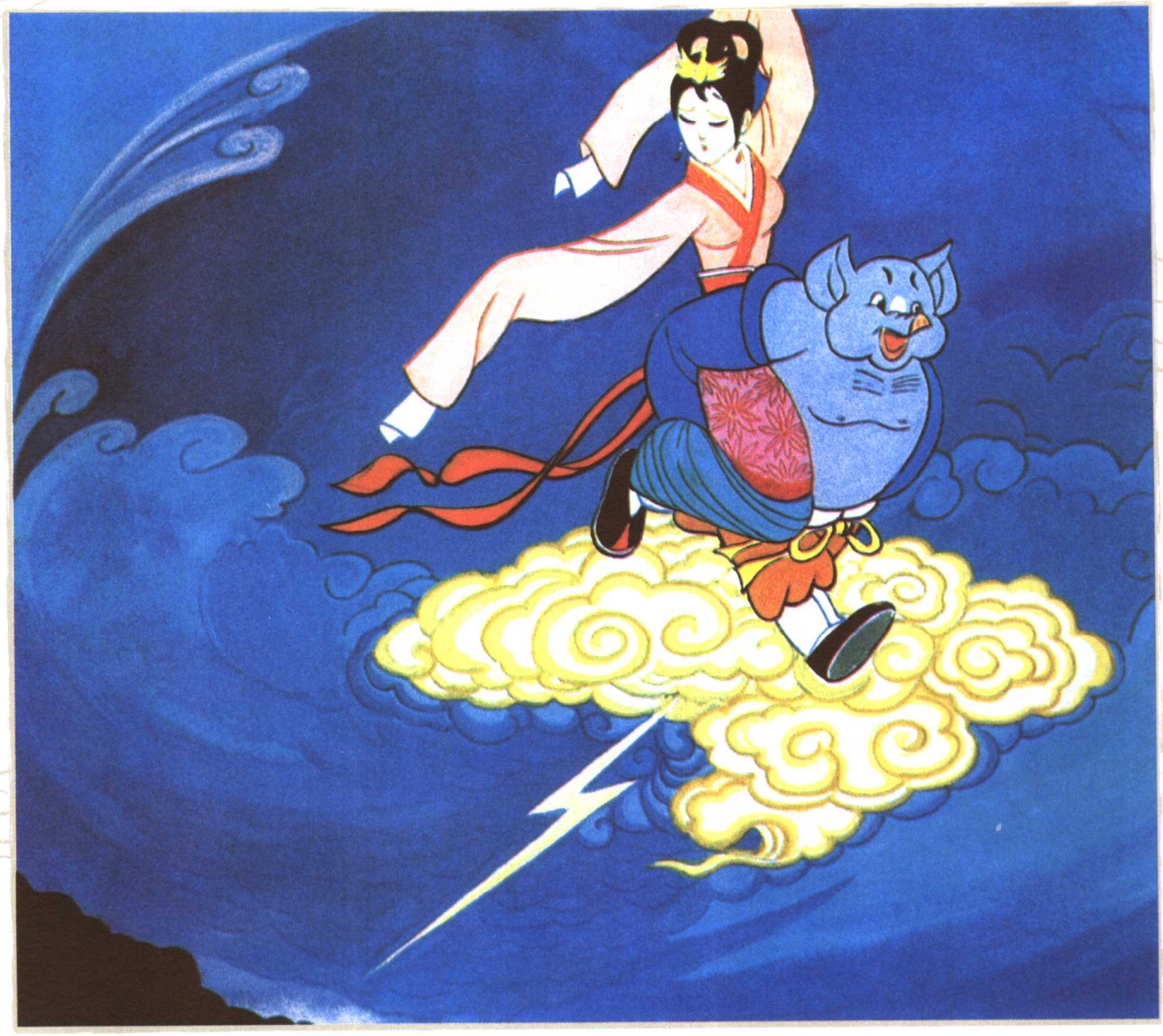
But as time went by Squire Gao's son-in-law began to look different. He became a big-eared and long-snouted idiot with thick black hair running down from the back of his head. His face was just like a pig's. His appetite grew enormous, too. He ate huge amounts of rice at every meal. Squire Gao became very worried.

What irritated Squire Gao more was that his son-in-law was growing lazier and lazier. One day Squire Gao found him still in bed when the sun was already high in the sky. He went to wake his son-in-law up. To his horror his piggish son-in-law not only refused to get out of bed, but also spoke rudely to him.



When Squire Gao heard his son-in-law swearing at him, he was so furious that he threatened to beat his son-in-law with his walking stick. The frightened Pig jumped out of bed and out through the window.

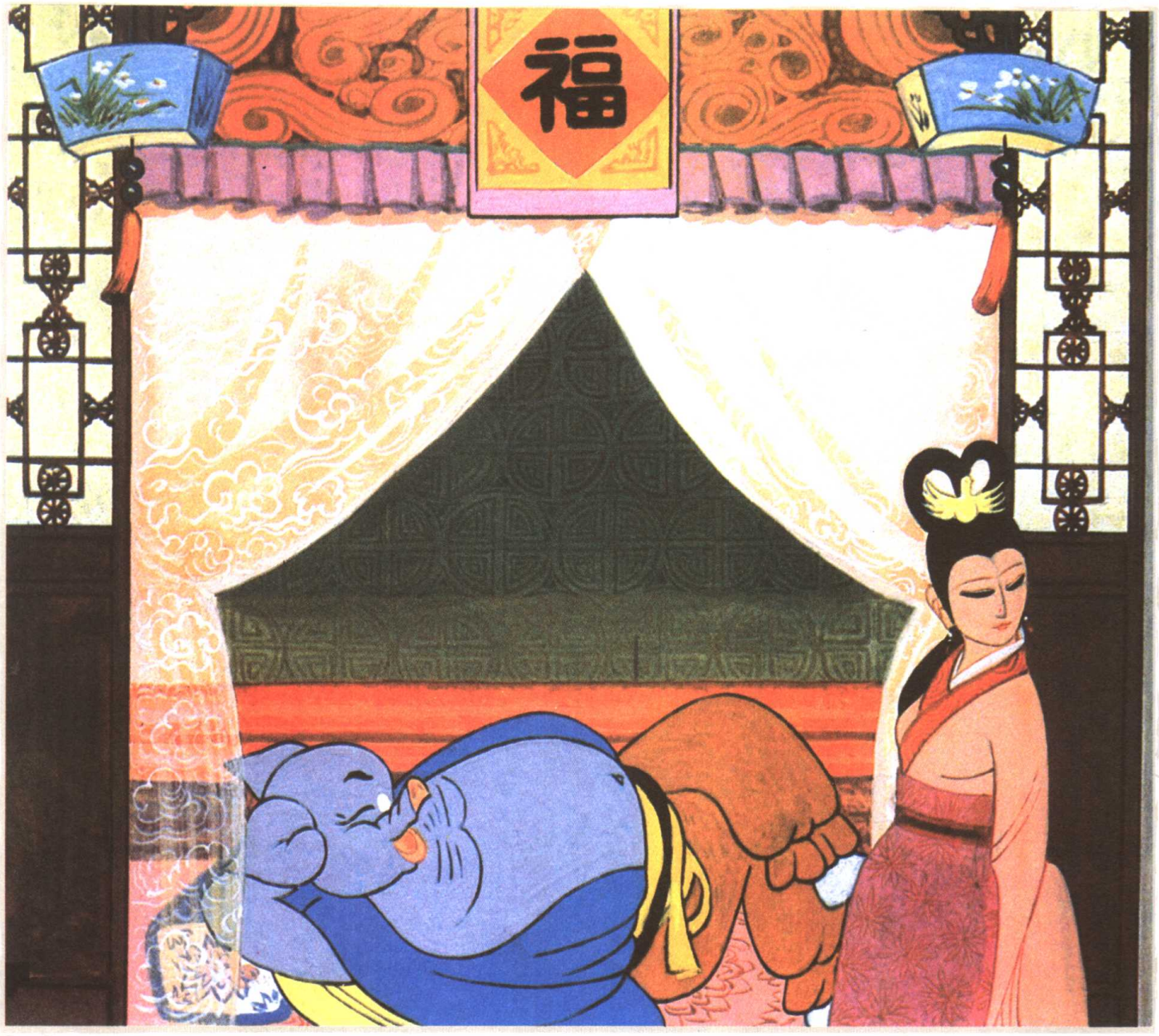
Squire Gao chased him outside, panting. Suddenly he heard the sound of a wind and saw his piggish son-in-law riding off on a cloud. Squire Gao turned pale with fright and fainted.



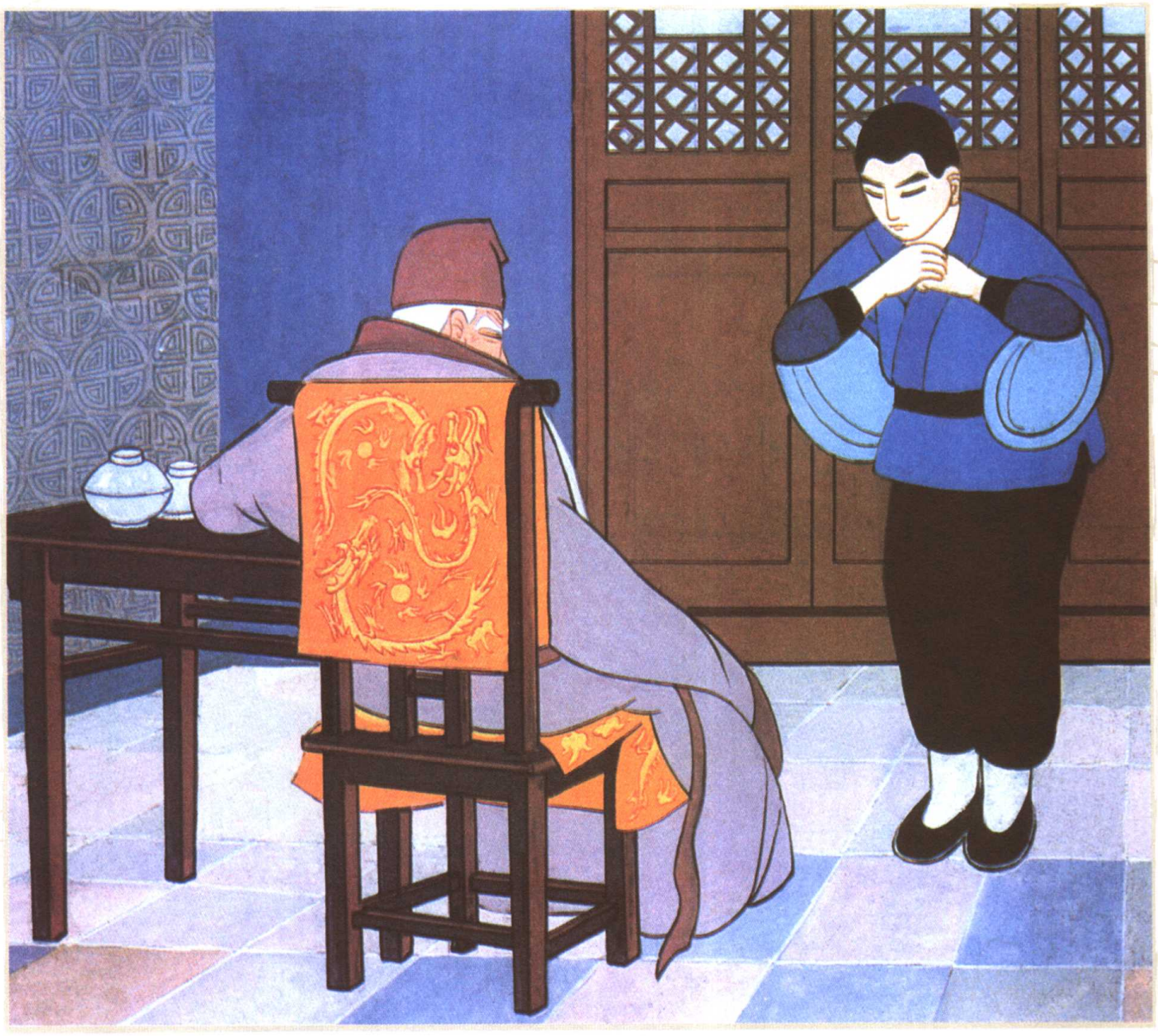
That evening Squire Gao heard a sound like thunder and discovered his piggish son-in-law breaking into his home. Grabbing hold of Blue Orchid, his wife, Pig jumped back on his cloud.

But flying around in the sky with his wife on his back, Pig found nowhere to go. He had to return to Old Gao Village and shut his wife away in a building in Squire Gao's back yard. He locked the door with a big lock and poured molten copper into it. Nobody could open the door except himself. He could come out and go in by using his magic powers.

During the day he wandered around on a cloud, enjoying himself deep in the mountains and the forests.

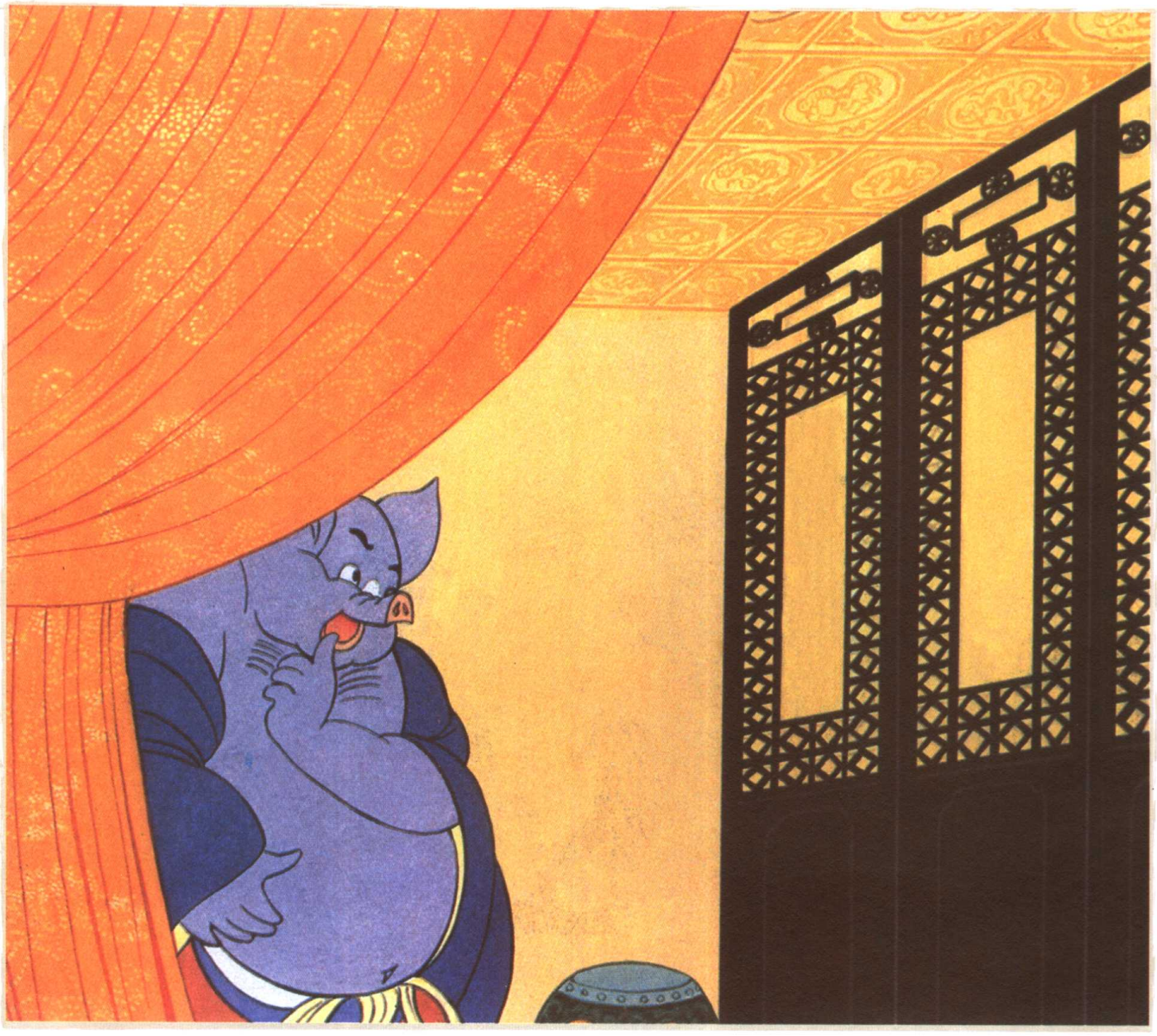


At night he came back in a fog and fell asleep as soon as he touched the bed. He paid no attention to his wife. With a husband like that, the poor wife was always miserable. Her face always wore a frown.

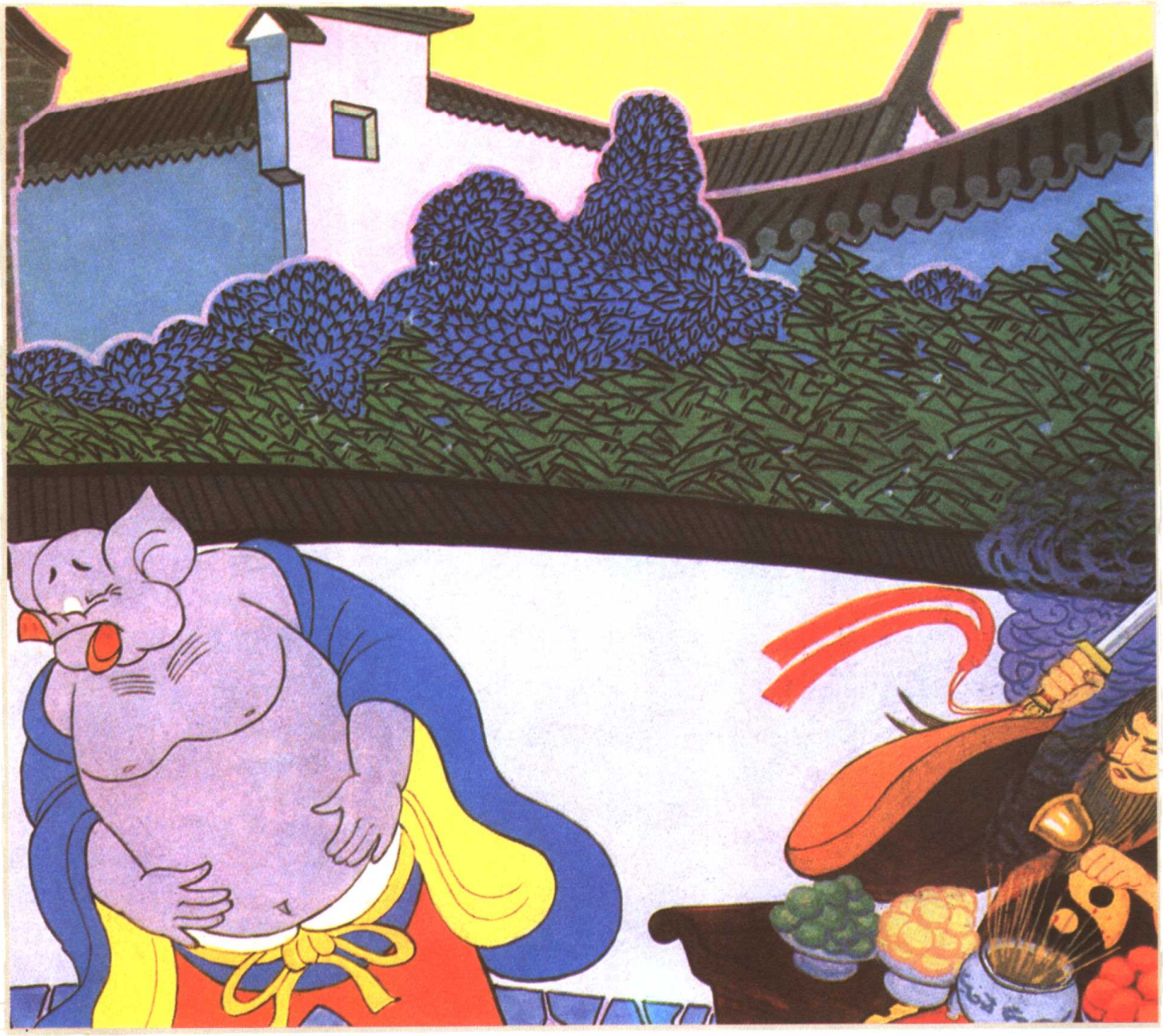


Squire Gao was so upset that his daughter had married an evil spirit that he could neither eat nor sleep. Gao Cai, a servant in the house, suggested asking a Taoist priest to capture the evil spirit. Squire Gao readily accepted Gao Cai's suggestion.

The next morning a sacrificial altar was built in the back yard. The priest went to the altar with a sword in his hand, murmuring some words. Then he shouted, "You evil spirit! Where have you come from? How dare you commit such sins here? Come out immediately and surrender! Otherwise I'll kill you with my sword!"



Pig was fast asleep when all of a sudden he heard the noise and commotion outside. He got straight out of bed to find out what was going on.

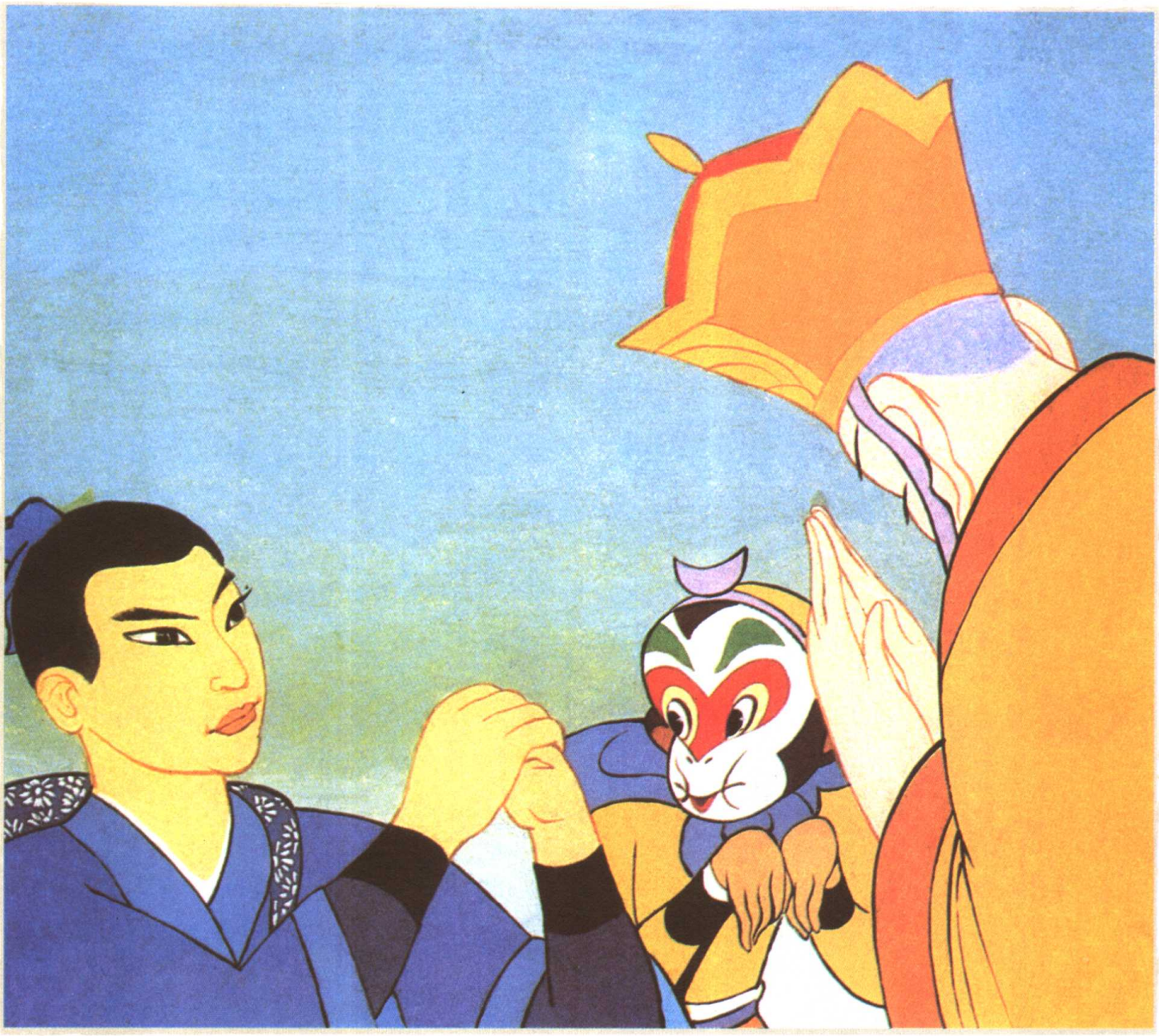


When Pig came out and saw the priest chanting scriptures so seriously, his sides shook with laughter. He thought, "I'll use a little bit of my magic powers to tease the priest and teach him a lesson."

He opened his mouth and deliberately sneezed. In a minute, a gale blew up which sent pebbles and sand flying and turned the sacrificial altar over. The priest fell down.

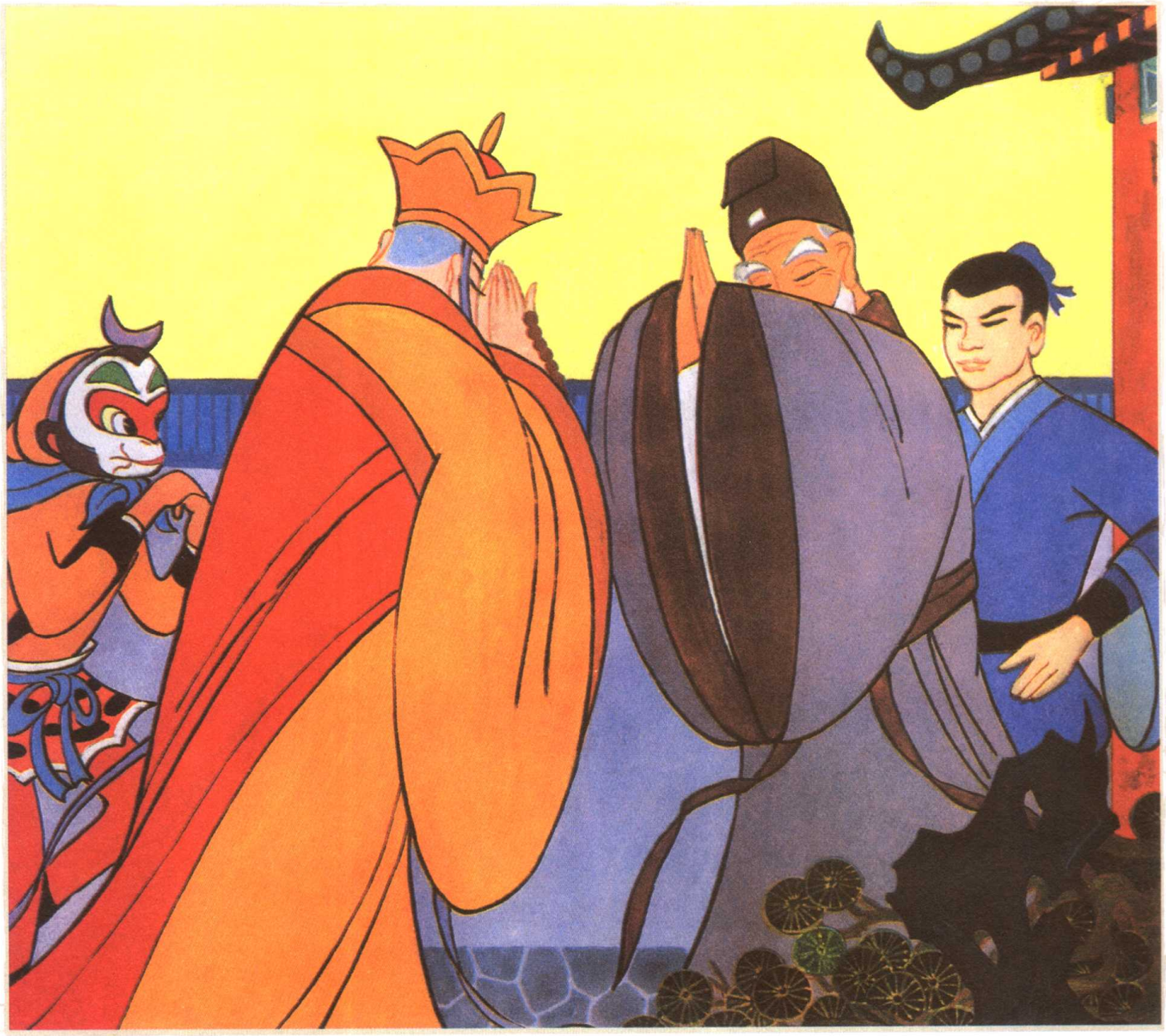
Squire Gao blamed Gao Cai for getting a useless priest and ordered him to go and find a better one.

Gao Cai packed his luggage and left home in a hurry to look for a good priest. At the end of the village's main street he met Xuanzang, the Tang Priest, and his disciple the Monkey King, who were on their way to the West to fetch the true scriptures. Sun Wukong — Monkey — grabbed Gao Cai and asked where he was going. Gao Cai was in a bad mood and tried to break loose to continue on his way.

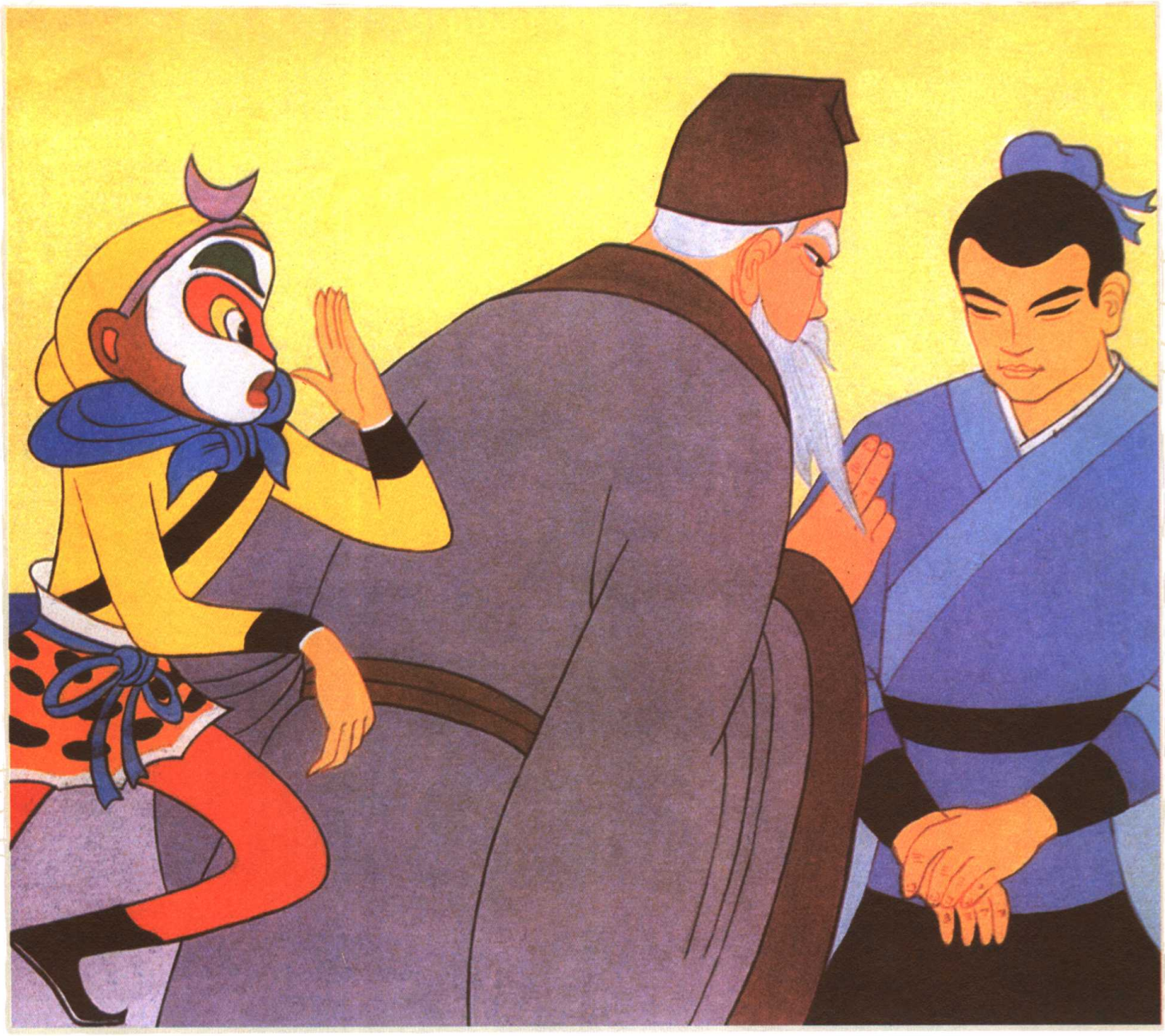


The Tang Priest at once dismounted from his horse, bowed to Gao Cai and said, "Sir, you seem to be in a hurry to make a long journey. Are you having difficulties?" Xuanzang's kind and pleasant face and his politeness persuaded Gao Cai to tell them the story of how Squire Gao's daughter had been married to the monster Pig and locked up by him.

Monkey clapped his hands and replied with a laugh, "What luck that you run into me. I'm Sun Wukong who made a lot of trouble up in the Heavenly Palace some five hundred years ago. Now I'm escorting my master to the West to worship the Buddha and ask for the true scriptures. Along the way I've been very good at dealing with devils and capturing monsters. Take us to the head of your household."



Only half convinced, Gao Cai showed master and disciple to Squire Gao's front door. He told Squire Gao that two saintly monks had come from the East. The old man quickly put on his best clothes and went to the front hall to greet them. He bowed to Xuanzang and Xuanzang returned the bow.



At the sight of Monkey's ugly face, Squire Gao stepped back in fright. He turned around and said angrily to Gao Cai, "We already have one pig monster here. Why did you have to bring a monkey devil here too?" Monkey said, "Don't be afraid, sir. I may not be good-looking, but I can capture evil spirits. You can't judge people by their faces."

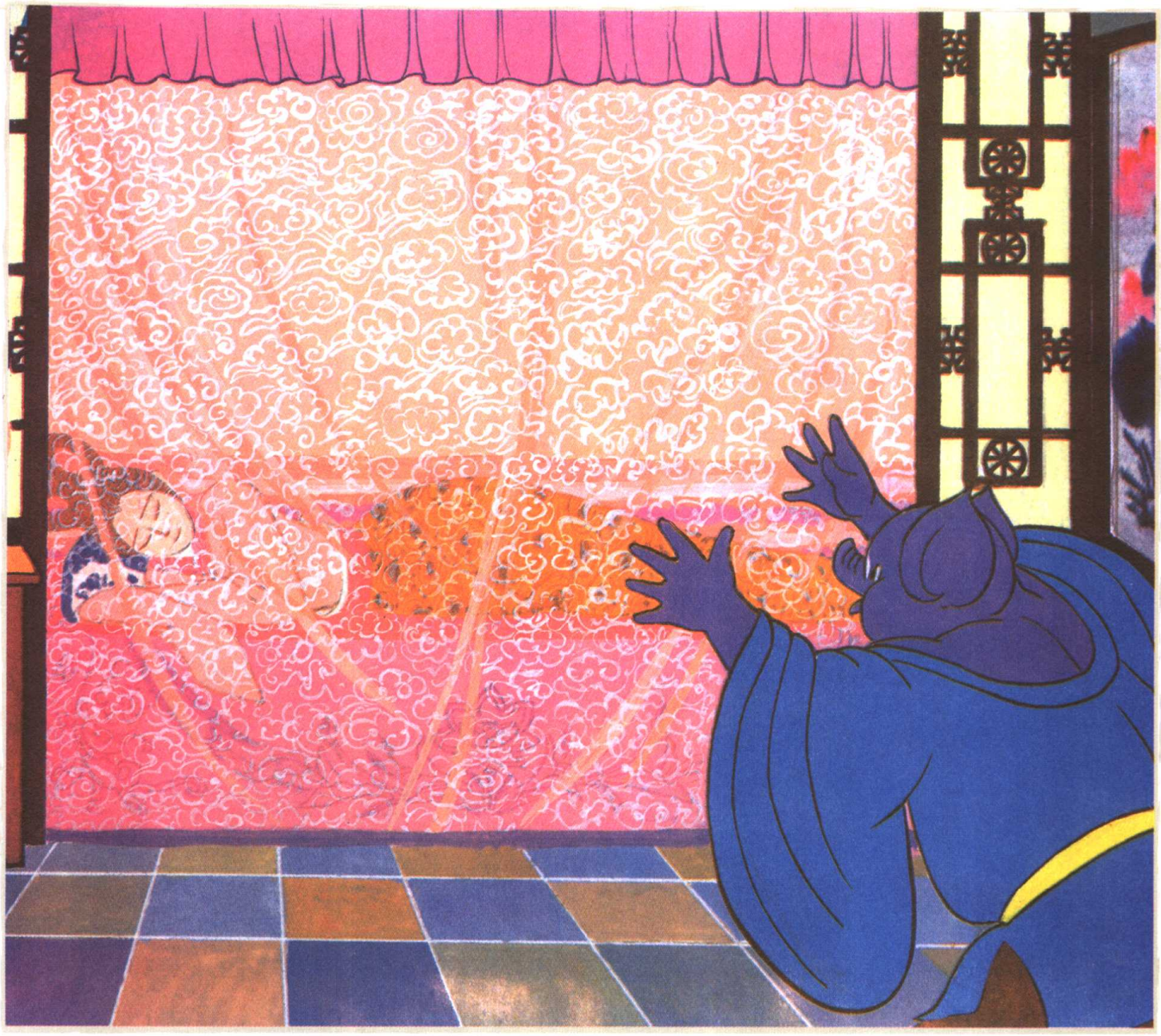
The old man found sense in what Monkey said. He pulled himself together and asked them into the hall to sit down. He told them the whole story of the monster who was living there. "You can rest easy," said Sun Wukong. "I'll take care of him tonight."

Squire Gao asked what weapons he should get and how many men he should call in. Monkey quietly produced an embroidery needle from his ear and shook it in the wind. It turned into a gold-banded cudgel as thick around as a rice bowl. "I have my own weapon and I can do the job myself," he said.

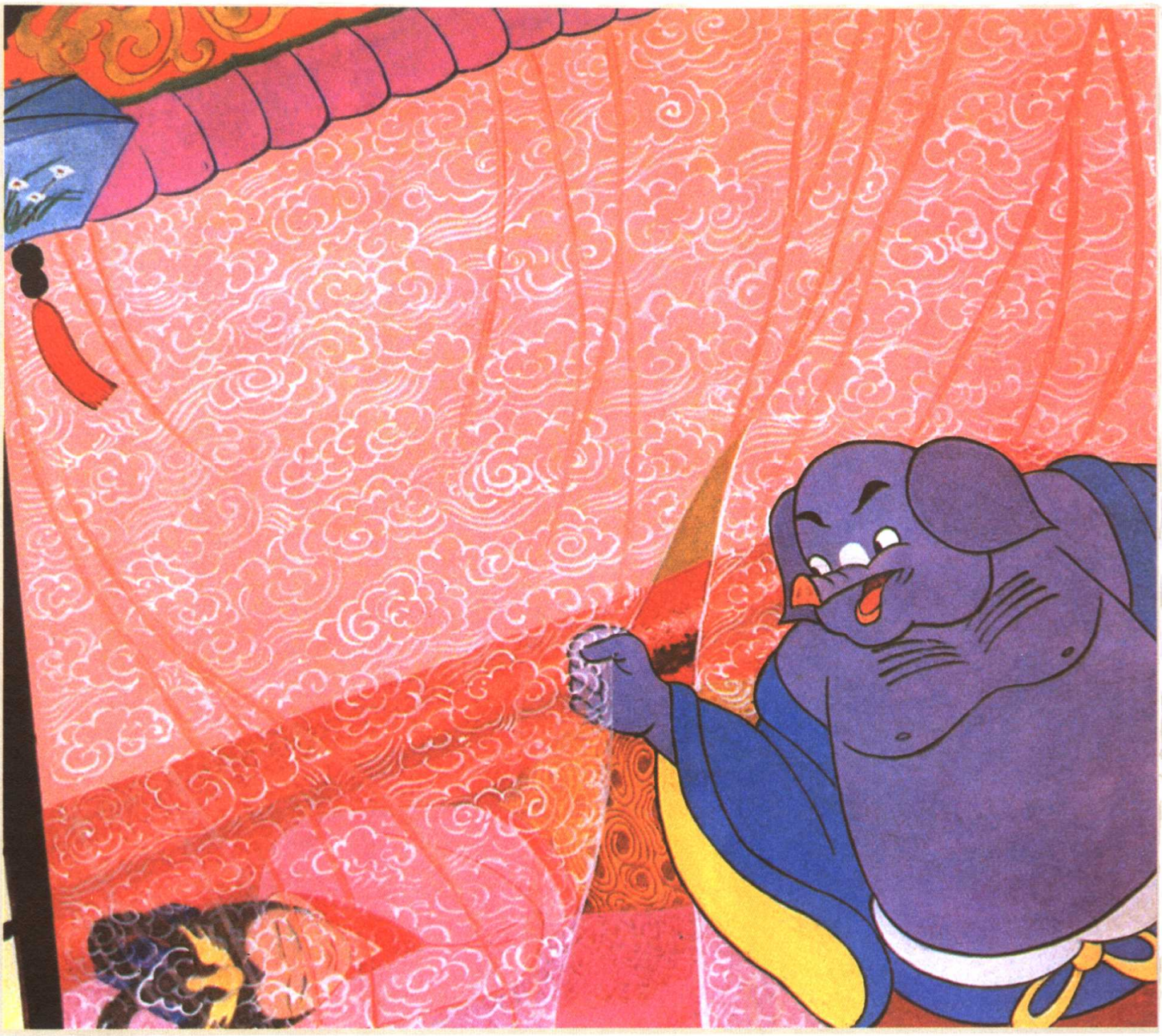
After it was dark, Squire Gao lit a lantern and led Sun Wukong to the door of the back building. Monkey found the door locked with a heave lock. He shattered it with a vicious blow from his cudgel.

Squire Gao followed Sun Wukong timidly into the room. Blue Orchid grabbed hold of her father, put her arms round him and wept. Monkey said, "Venerable sir, you'd better take the girl somewhere to have a rest. I'll wait here for the monster."

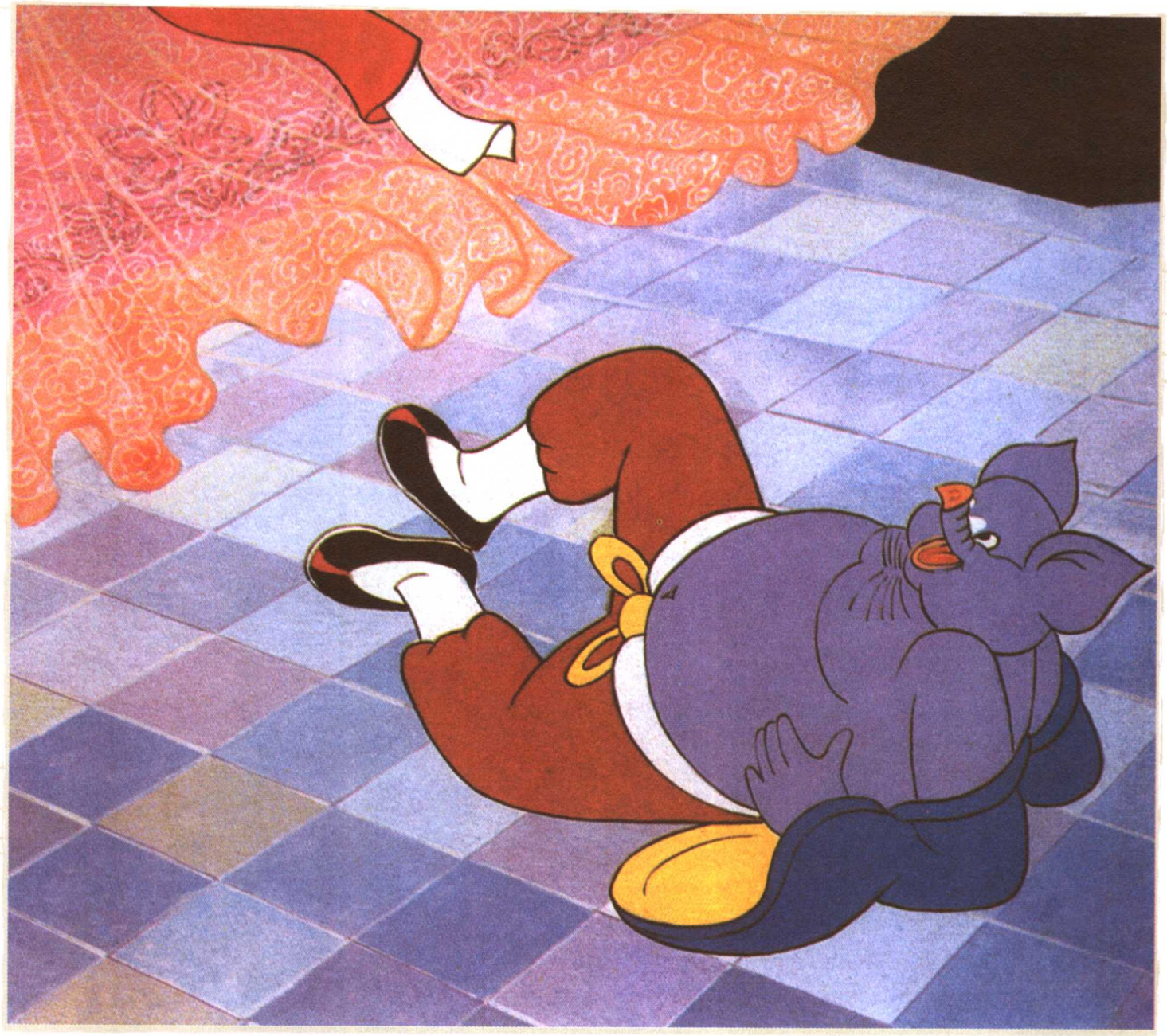
After the old man and his daughter had left, Monkey made himself look just like the girl with a shake of his body. Then he sat down in the room alone to wait for Pig.



Before long there was a terrific wind. Then, as the gale passed, a fat fellow with a long snout, big ears and silly look appeared.

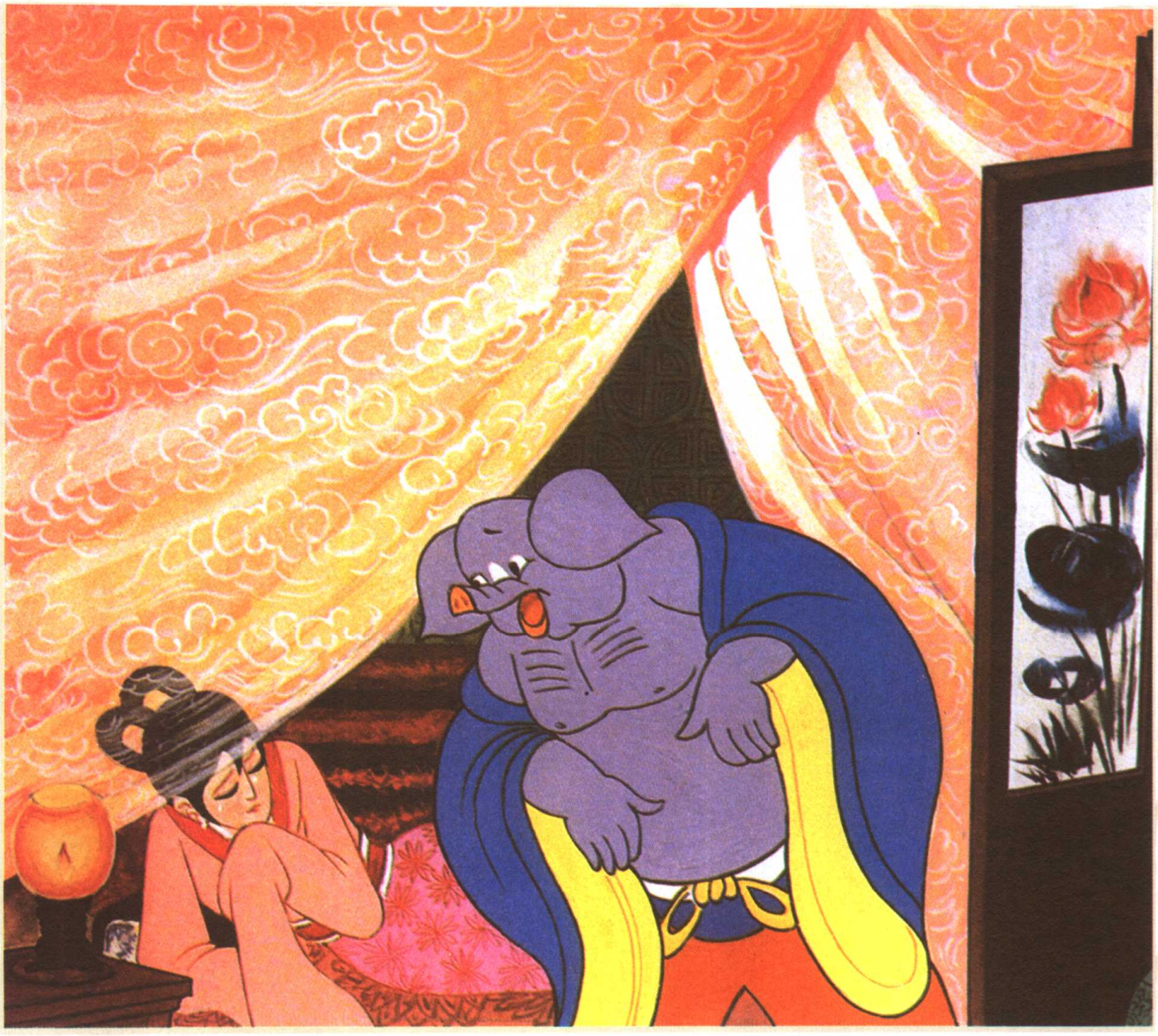


Not knowing who Monkey really was, the monster went to the side of the bed, opened the mosquito net and said with a smile, "Darling, I haven't seen you all day and it's been like three years. I've been missing you terribly."

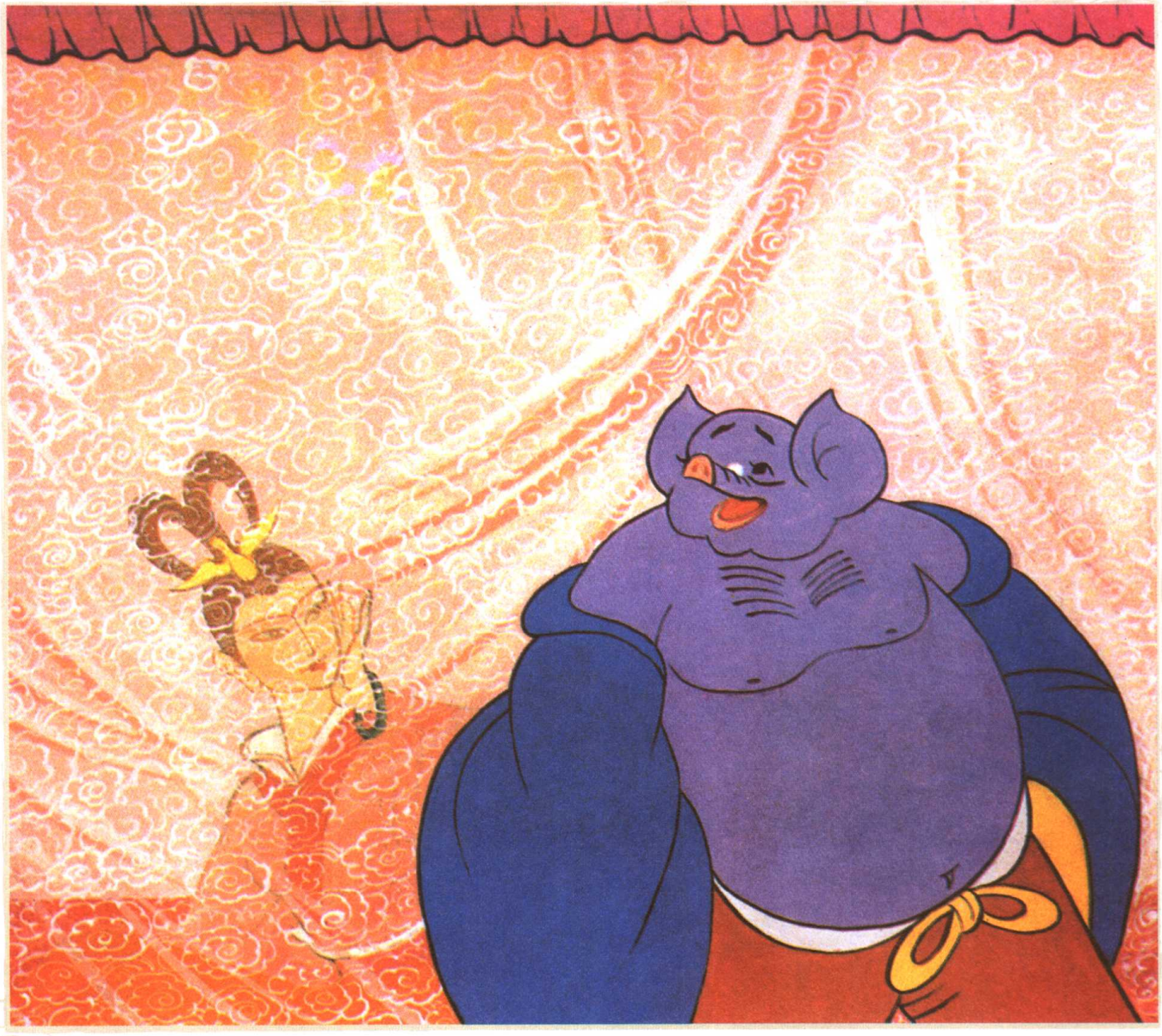


Sun Wukong imitated Blue Orchid's sweet voice and said, "Go away! I'm not feeling very well today." Then he thrust his hand up under the monster's long snout to throw him off balance.

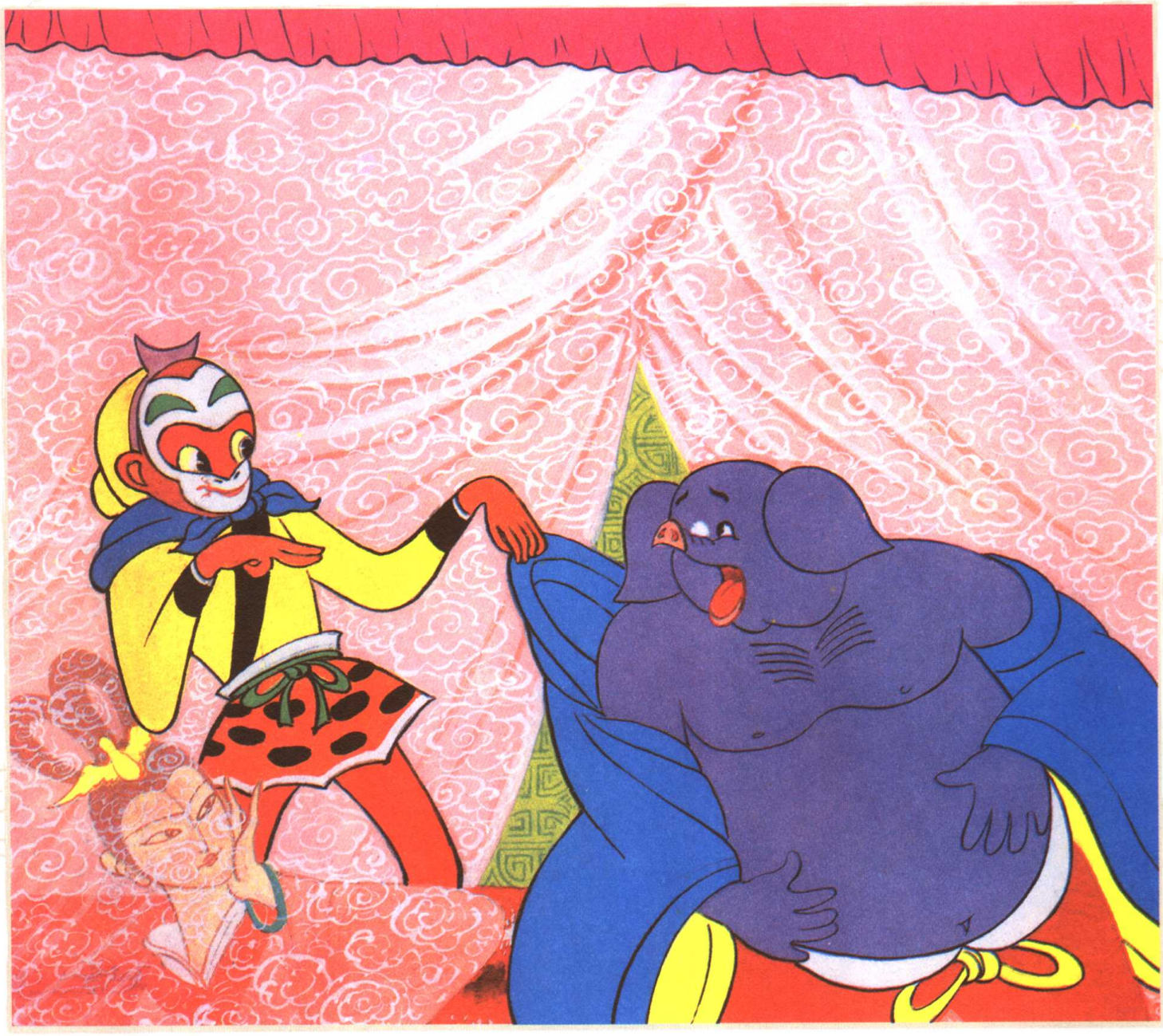
The monster thought to himself, "Usually she is very weak. Why is she so strong today?" He got up from the floor and said, "Darling, why are you so angry with me today? Is it because you are unhappy? Tell me."



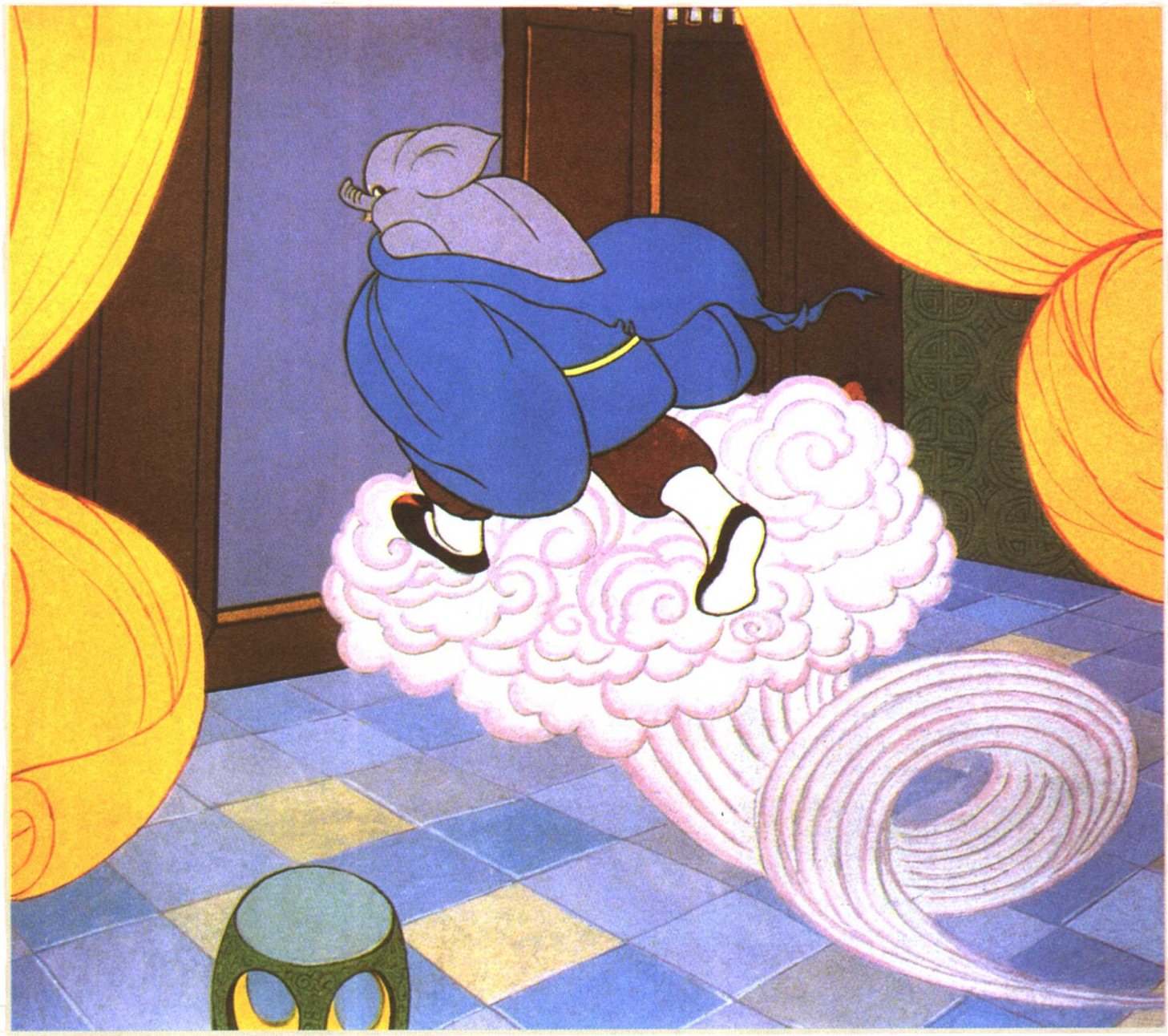
Monkey squeezed out some tears and snivelled, "When we married, I expected a peaceful life. But now my father is complaining about having such an ugly brute as you around. He says he's going to ask that Monkey, who made all that trouble up in the Heavenly Palace five hundred years ago, to come and deal with you."



When he heard this, Pig burst out laughing and said, "Go to sleep. Don't be afraid. If your father has really asked that Protector of the Horses to capture me, I'll teach him a lesson with my nine-pronged rake."



On hearing that hated nickname again, the Monkey King was so angry that he gave his face a rub and changed back into his real self. Monkey grabbed the monster's clothes and roared, "Take a look and see who I am."



Pig recognized Monkey and knew that he was no match for him. At once he turned aside. Then with a great tearing sound he broke free, ripping his clothes, and escaping in the form of a hurricane.

Monkey picked up his iron cudgel and rushed after him, swiping at the wind. The monster then changed into ten thousand sparks that flew up to the sky. Sun Wukong mounted his cloud and followed Pig closely.

As he was racing along, Monkey saw a high and steep mountain appear in front of them. The monster rushed into a cave halfway up the mountain.

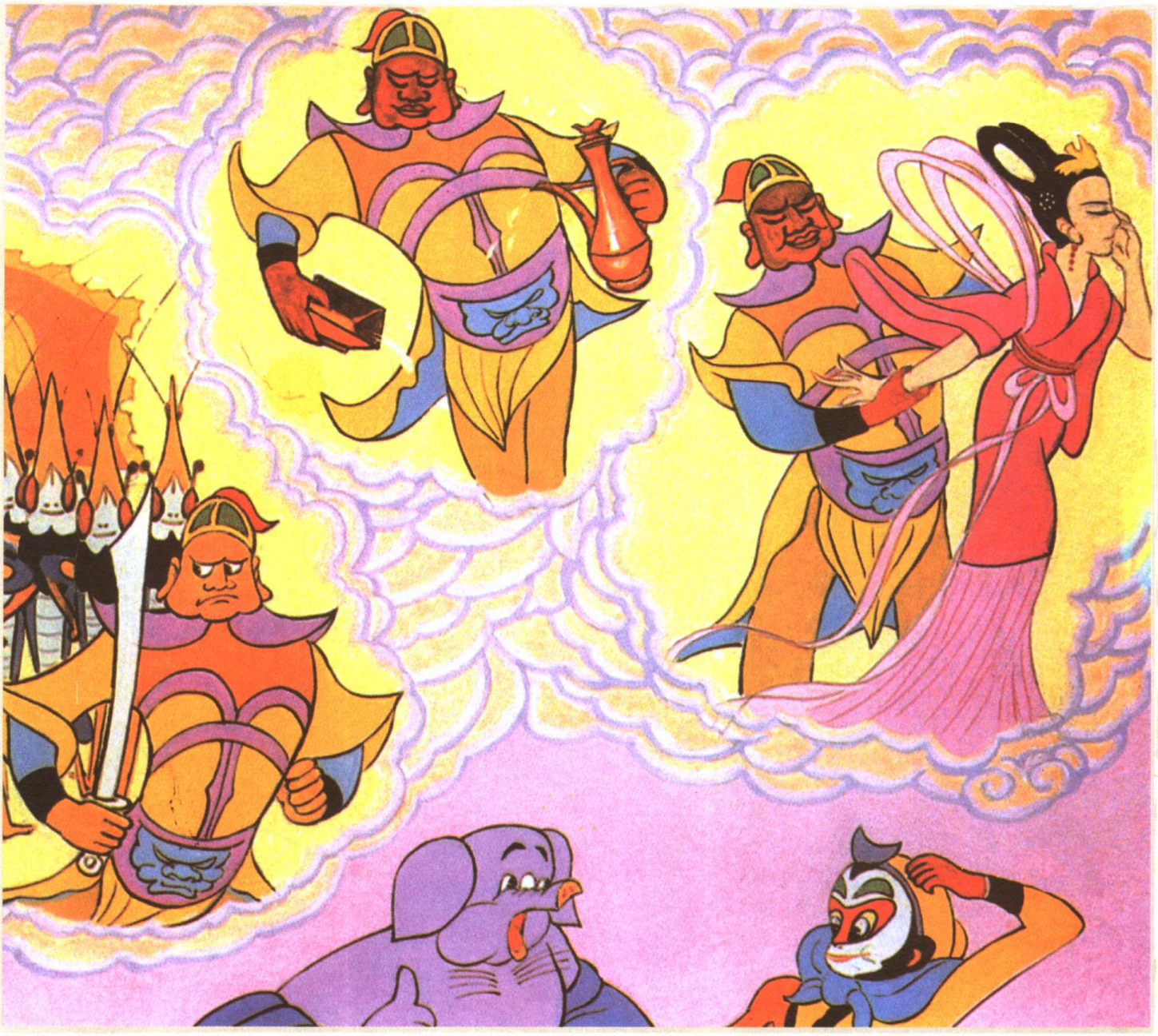
As soon as Monkey reached the mouth of the cave, Pig came out with a nine-pronged rake and shouted, "You lout of a monkey, just because I'm not getting on with my father-in-law, what right does that give you to poke your nose in? Is it any of your business?" For his reply, Monkey struck at the monster with his cudgel.

They fought on the mountain side from nearly midnight until the sky began to grow light in the east. Then, no longer able to resist, the monster broke away and fled, turning into a hurricane again. When he reached his cave he shut the gates tight behind him. But Sun Wukong discovered where he had gone and smashed the gates to smithereens with his cudgel.

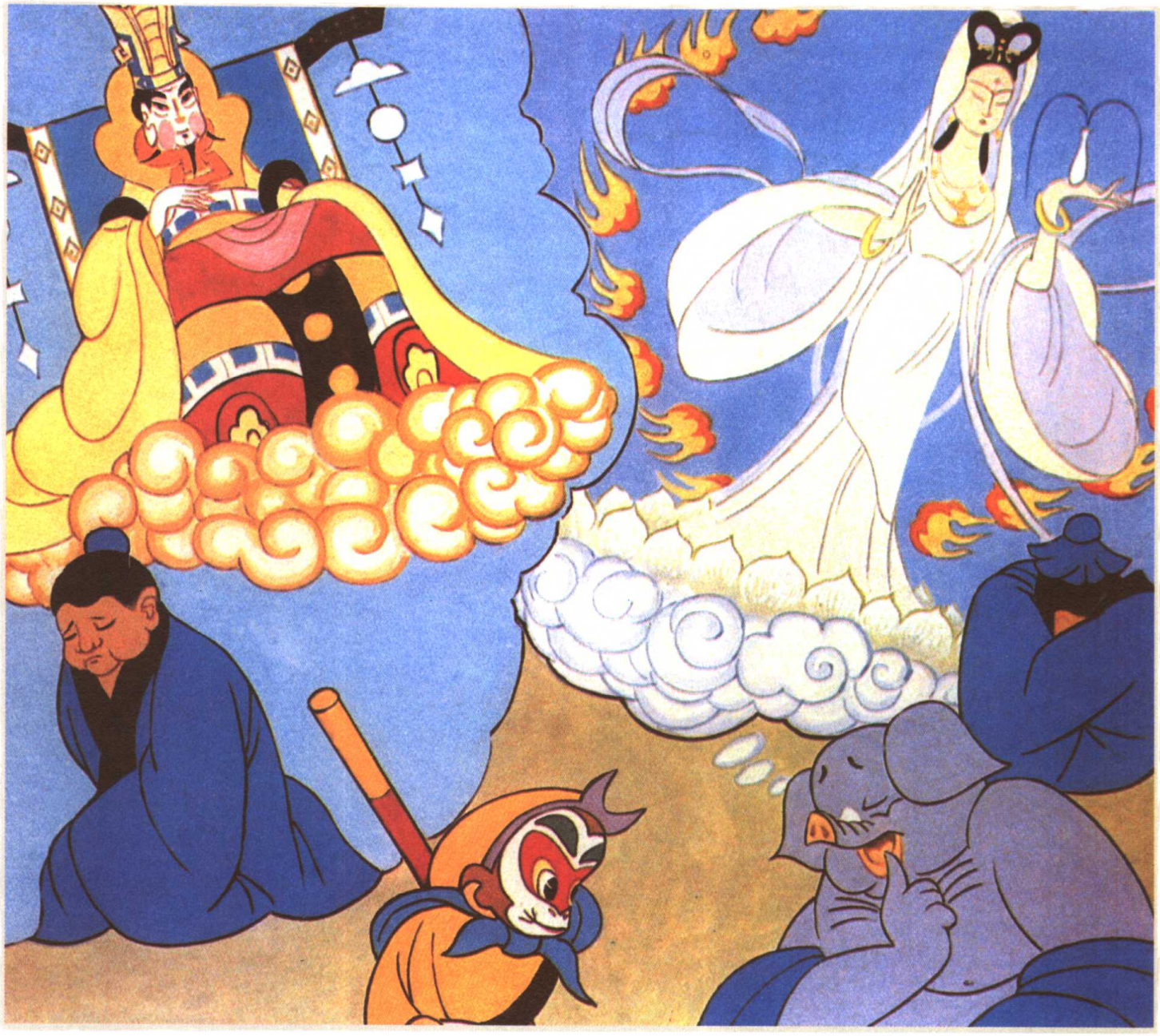
When Pig, who had been snoring inside, heard the gates being smashed he went wild with fury, shrieking, "You shameless Monkey, see how this rake of mine strikes you." The Monkey King laughed, "Try if you like."

The monster raised his rake and brought it down with all his might, but although sparks flew, it did not even scratch Monkey's scalp. The monster was so frightened that his arms and legs turned to jelly.

The monster dropped his rake to the ground and began to cry. "Why don't you go back to being King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit? Why are you bullying me here?" "My job is to protect the Tang Priest Xuanzang on his journey to the West to visit the Buddha and ask for the true scriptures," replied Sun Wukong. "Squire Gao asked me to rescue his daughter and capture you, you moron."



Pig asked, "Where is the famous Tang Priest? Please take me to meet him." "What do you want to see him for?" asked Monkey. The monster said, "I used to be the marshal commanding the Heavenly Navy. At the Queen Mother's Peach Banquet I drank too much and went to the Moon Palace to fool around with the Goddess of the Moon...."

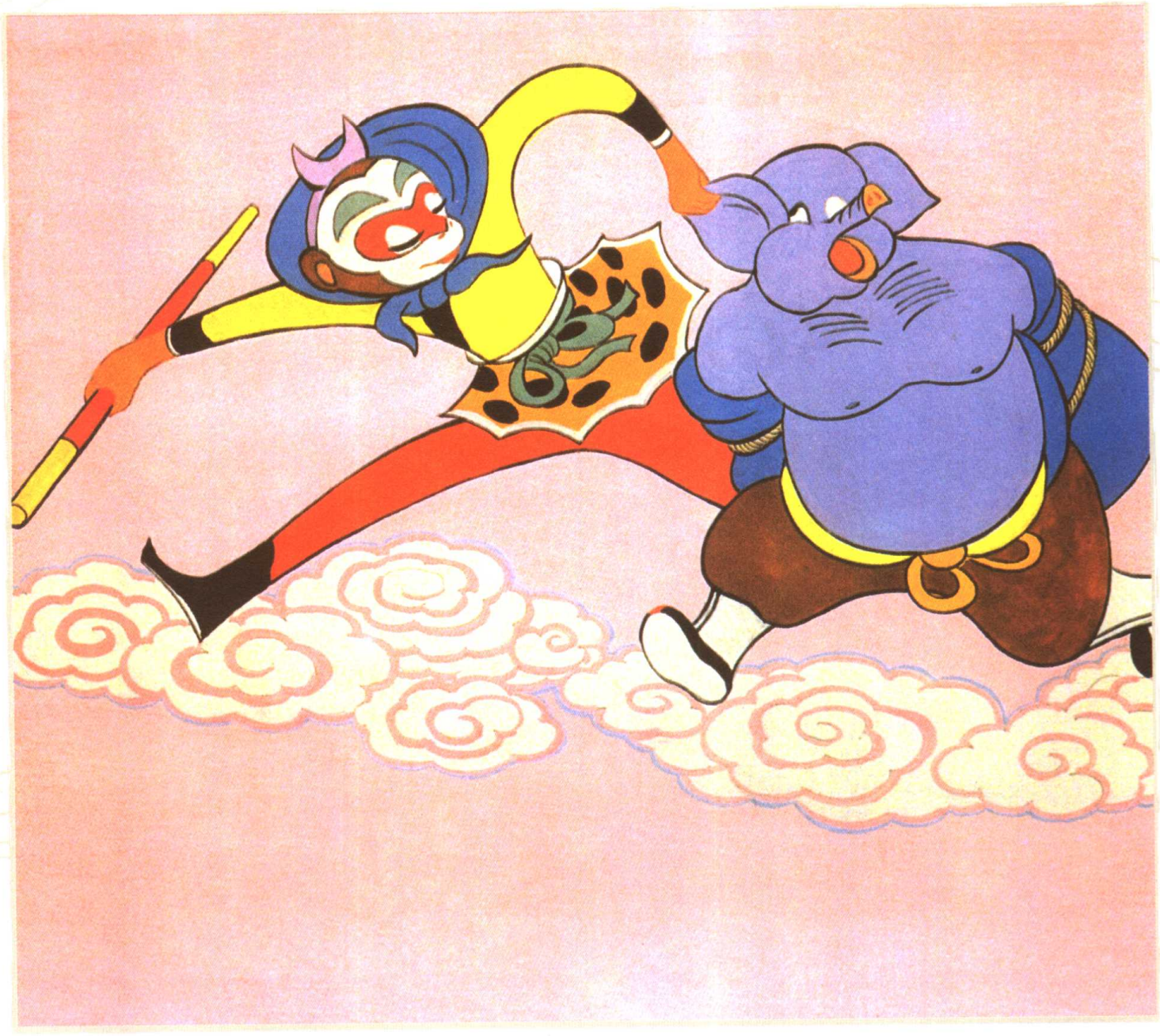


"When the Jade Emperor learned this," continued the monster, "he drove me out of the Heavenly Palace. The Bodhisattva Guanyin ordered me to go with Xuanzang to the West to worship the Buddha and get the true scriptures. She said I can make up for my sins through this good deed. Ever since then, I've been made to look like a pig. I've been waiting for the Tang Priest for years."

Monkey shook his head and said, "Don't think you can fool me with a pack of lies. If this is just a trick to get away, you'll be sorry." At this the monster fell to his knees, bowed to the sky and vowed, "If I'm not telling the truth, you can smash me into ten thousand bits with your cudgel."

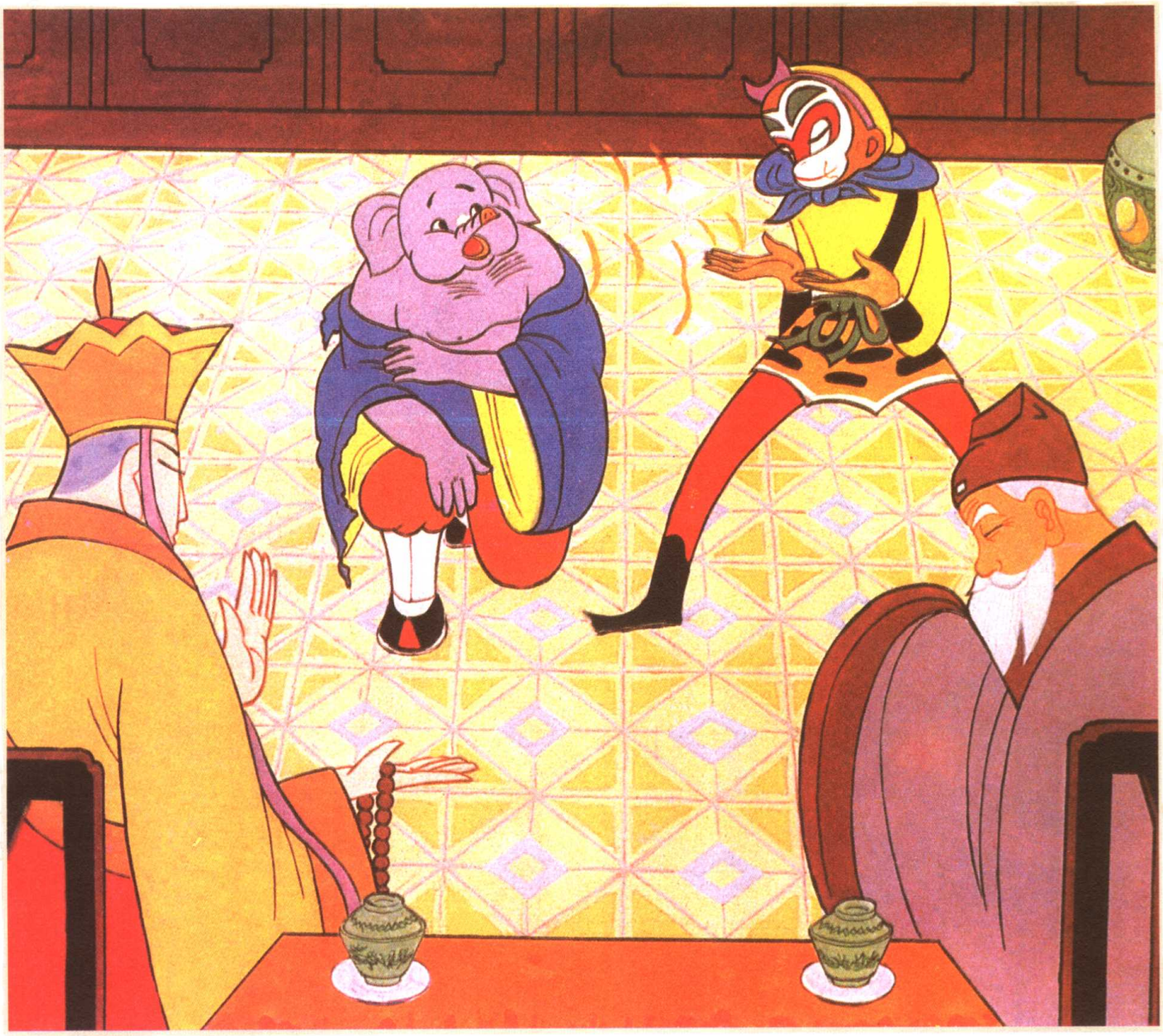
"All right then," said the Monkey King. "Burn down this place of yours and we'll take you." The monster then piled up some reeds and grass and lit a fire. The flames shot up to the sky. The cave split apart and collapsed.

Sun Wukong then plucked out one of his hairs, blew on it with a magic breath, and shouted, "Change!" It turned into a piece of rope, with which he bound Pig's hands behind his back. The monster quietly put his hands there and let Monkey tie him up.

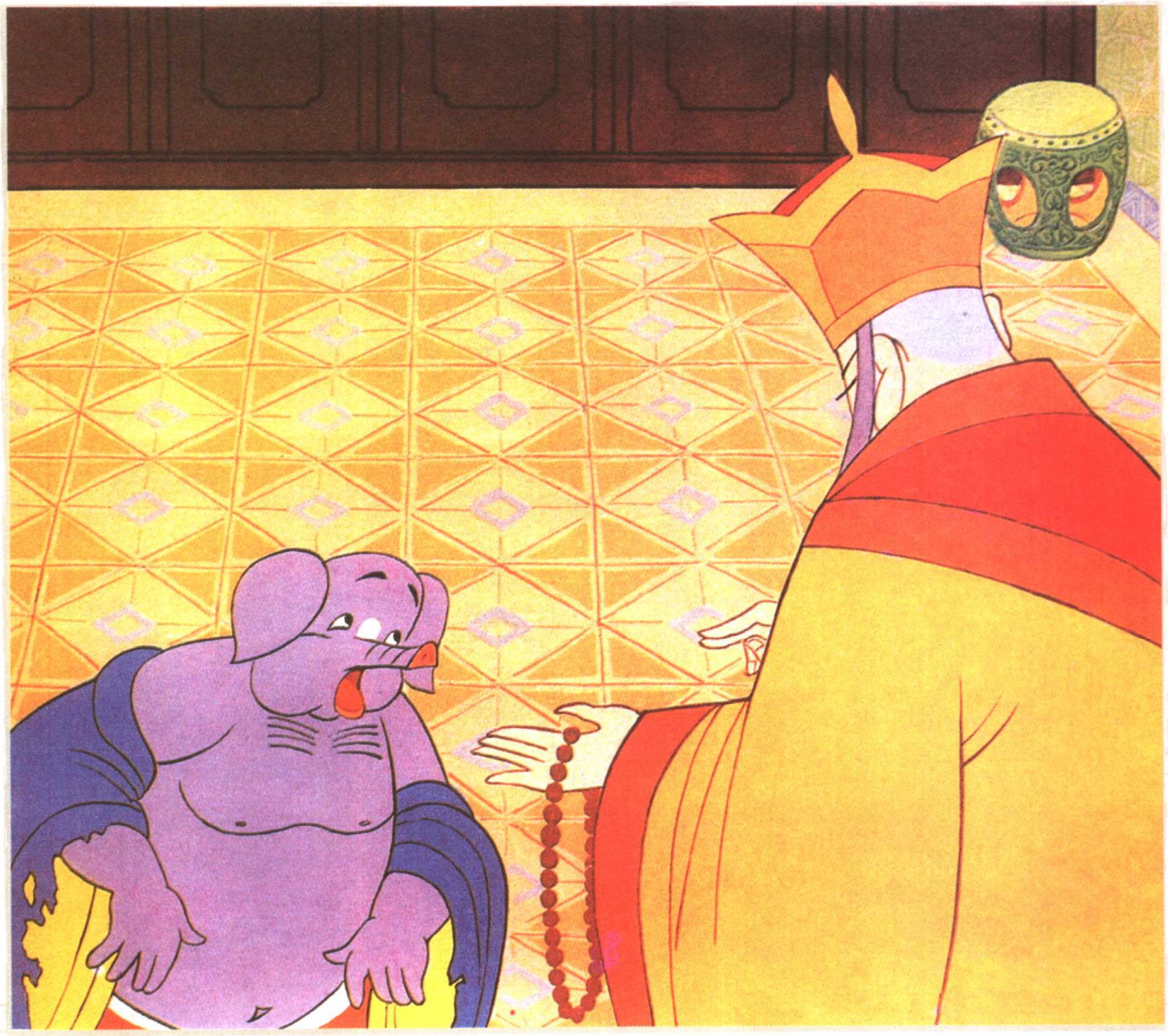


Monkey seized him by the ear and dragged him off with the words, "Quick, march." "Take it easy," the monster pleaded. "You're pulling so hard you're hurting my ear."

The two of them were soon in the main hall of Squire Gao's house. Seeing Xuanzang and Squire Gao chatting and drinking tea, the monster stepped forward and fell to his knees. "Master," he shouted, "your disciple failed to welcome you. Forgive me." He then told the Tang Priest all about how he had been converted by the Bodhisattva.



The Tang Priest was so pleased that he said at once, "Untie him." The Monkey King shook himself to take his hair back, and the rope untied itself. Squire Gao was delighted that his piggish son-in-law turned from evil to good and that his daughter had been rescued. He was very grateful to Xuanzang and thanked him again and again.



Xuanzang said to his new disciple, "Now that you've become a monk, you'll need a Buddhist name. I've chosen one for you — Bajie, or Eight Prohibitions." And since Squire Gao's son-in-law looked like a pig, he was from then on known as Zhu Bajie, or Eight Prohibitions Pig.

The Tang Priest and his two disciples bade farewell to Squire Gao and left Old Gao Village, heading West. On his journey to the West, Xuanzang eventually took three disciples, but how he took the next one is another story that will be told in the next instalment.

Friar Sand Joins the Pilgrims

Friar Sand Joins the Pilgrins, tells what happens when the Tang Priest Xuanzang and his two disciples Pig and Monkey reach the Flowing Sands River, which an ogre prevents them from crossing. Pig battles with the ogre, and when he cannot cope Monkey has to turn elsewhere for help before the ogre becomes the Tang Priest's third disciple for the journey.

The Tang Priest Xuanzang had set off long ago towards the West to fetch the true scriptures. The first disciple he won was Sun Wukong, the Monkey King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit. At Old Gao Village another disciple, Zhu Bajie, or Pig, had joined them. It was a hard journey. They marched all day and rested only at night.

One day a great river, boiling and raging, appeared in front of them. On a stone tablet beside its mighty waves they could read the words FLOWING SANDS RIVER.

"Disciple," the Tang Priest asked Monkey, "why are there no boats on this wide river in front of us?" Monkey sprang into the sky, shaded his eyes with his hand, and took a good look around.

A few minutes later, Monkey returned to the ground and reported, "Master, the river is around three hundred miles wide with big waves, and there are no boats to ferry us over. We're in trouble." Xuanzang frowned and gave a deep sigh.

As it was getting late, Pig kept complaining loudly about how hungry he was. So the Tang Priest told Monkey, "You had better go and beg for some food first. We will stay here on the bank tonight and decide what to do tomorrow."

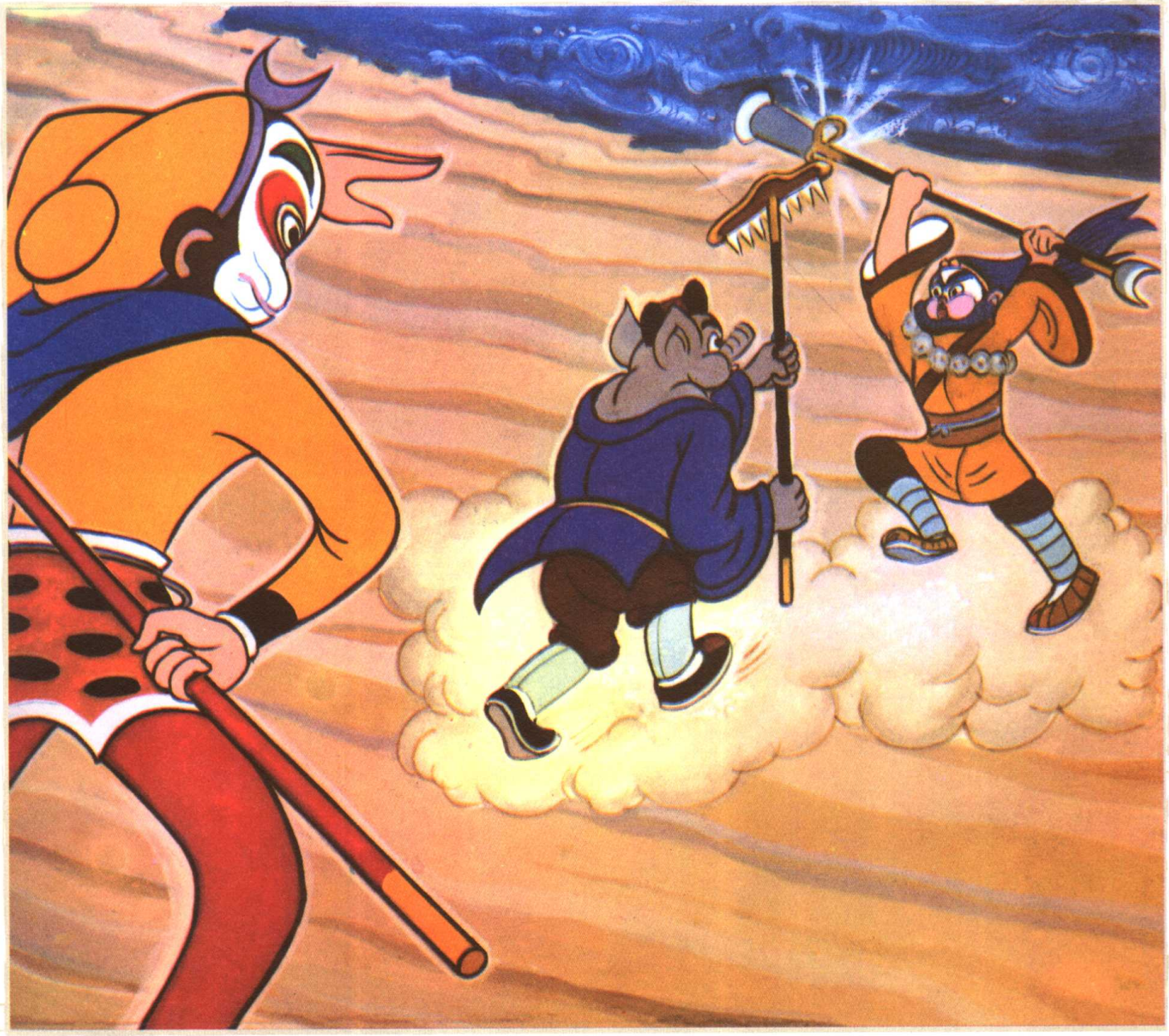
"Yes," agreed Monkey. He leaped up on a cloud and flew north to a house where he begged for some food.

In a short while Monkey was back with the food. As he had been so quick, Pig said, "Brother, the house where you begged this food can't be far from here. Why don't we spend the night there?" "On my somersault cloud I can cover thirty-six thousand miles with a single leap." Monkey replied. "But that house is at least two thousand miles away."

Pig said, "In that case you can take the master on your back and carry him across the river by cloud with no trouble at all." "You can ride clouds too," retorted Monkey. "Why don't you take the master on your back and fly across the river? You know as well as I do that because he's a human being he's too heavy to carry that way."

As the three of them were about to eat, they heard a roar from the waves as a monstrous ogre emerged from the water. He had matted hair, two staring eyes, nine skulls slung across his body and an enormous staff in his hand. The Tang Priest couldn't help shouting, "How frightful!"

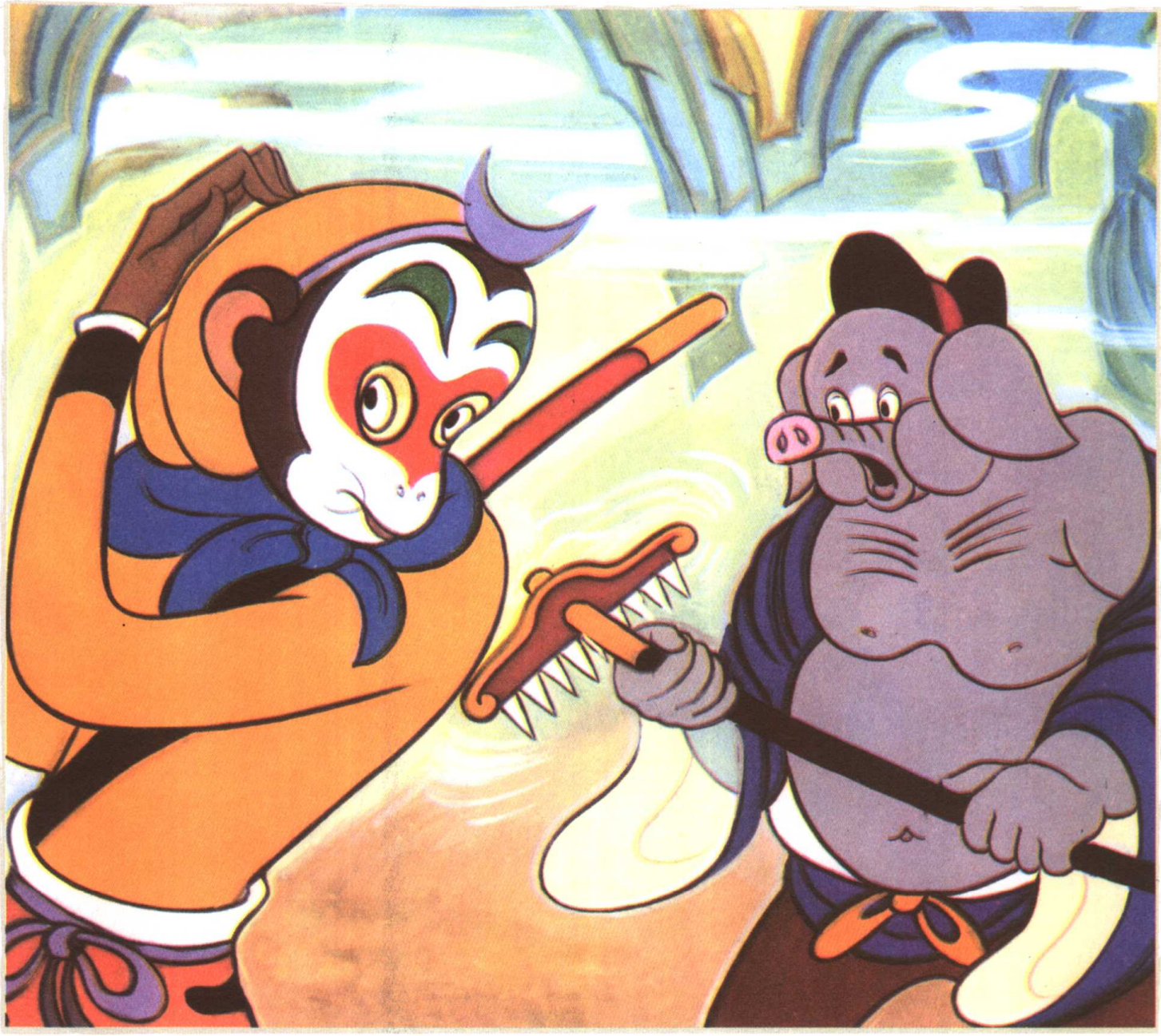
The ogre made for the river bank in a whirlwind and headed straight for the Tang Priest. Sun Wukong at once took Xuanzang in his arms and carried him high up the bank.



Pig jumped to his feet, picked up his rake and struck at the monster. The ogre parried the blow with his staff, and the two of them became locked in a fierce battle.

The ogre and Pig fought for twenty rounds, but neither came out on top. When the Monkey King realized that Pig was not going to win, he couldn't stop himself from joining the fight. He whistled, sprang down to the riverside with his cudgel at the ready and struck at the monster.

When the ogre saw Monkey coming towards him, he knew he had no chance of winning, so quick as lightning he turned and slipped away. Although Monkey pursued the ogre to the river bank and tried to hit him with his cudgel, the monster plunged into the river, where Monkey couldn't follow him, and vanished.



Pig was certain that the ogre would not appear again. He was very frustrated, stamped his feet and said, "Brother, I was fighting very well. The ogre was losing. If we'd fought three or four more rounds I'd have beaten him, but you came and frightened him into disappearing. We'll never find him again."

"Brother, don't be anxious," Monkey replied. "As you were once in charge of the navy in Heaven, you must be a very good swimmer. Go back into the water and fight with him there to lure him out. Once he's out of the water I can help you finish him off."

Pig thought the Monkey King's suggestion was a good idea, so he jumped into the river with his rake in his hand and dived straight to the bottom.

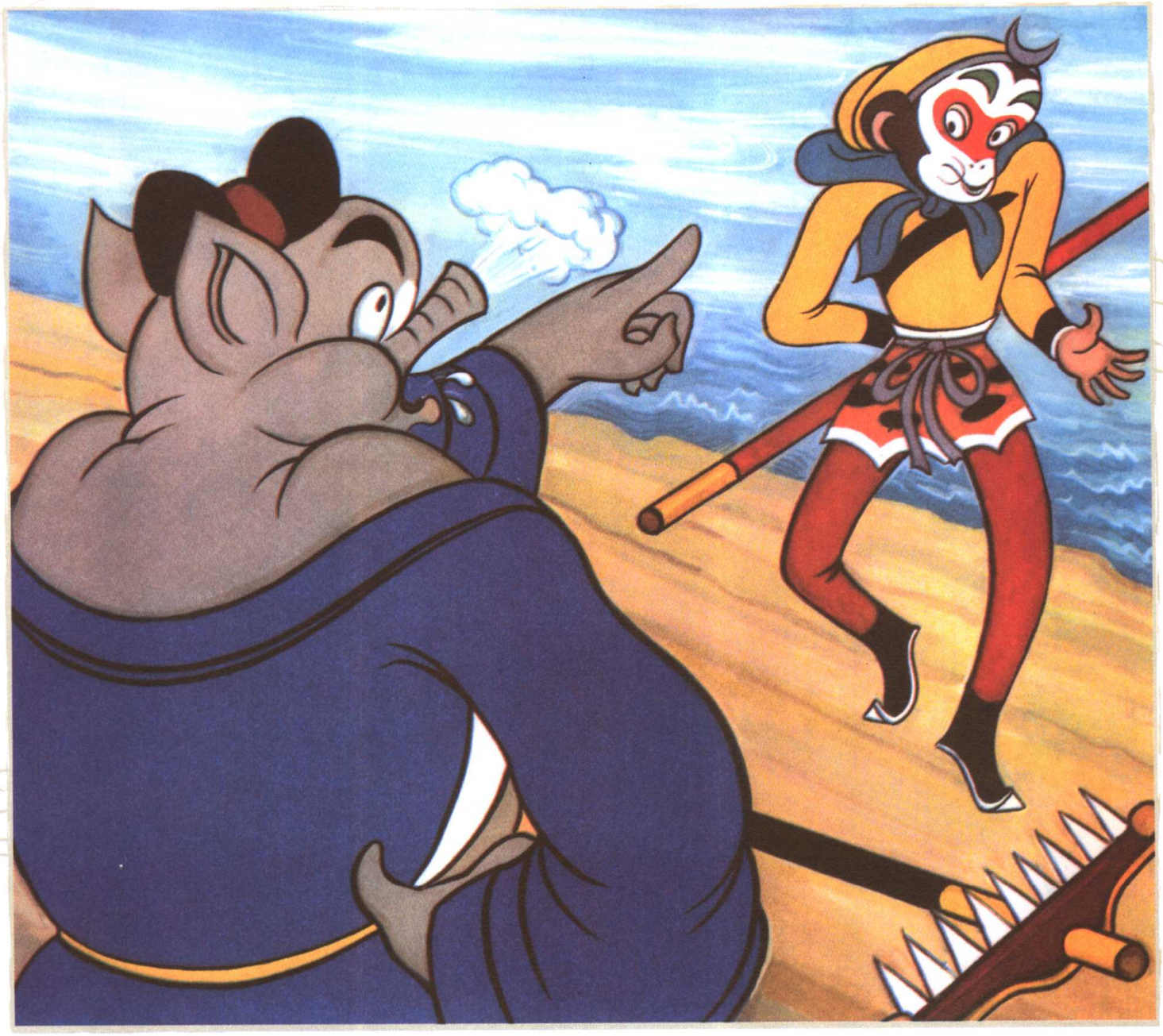
When he couldn't find the ogre anywhere he shouted, "You good-for-nothing monster, come on out and be a man! Try a taste of my rake!" He swung his rake in his hand and hit the water around him loudly.

By now the monster had recovered from his defeat. Hearing someone challenging him to a fight, he had a quick look and saw Pig charging towards him. He picked up his staff and got ready to fight.

Pig and the ogre fought over ten rounds in the water. Then Pig remembered what Monkey had told him to do and pretended that he was giving up. He slunk away. The ogre fell for the trick and ran after him.

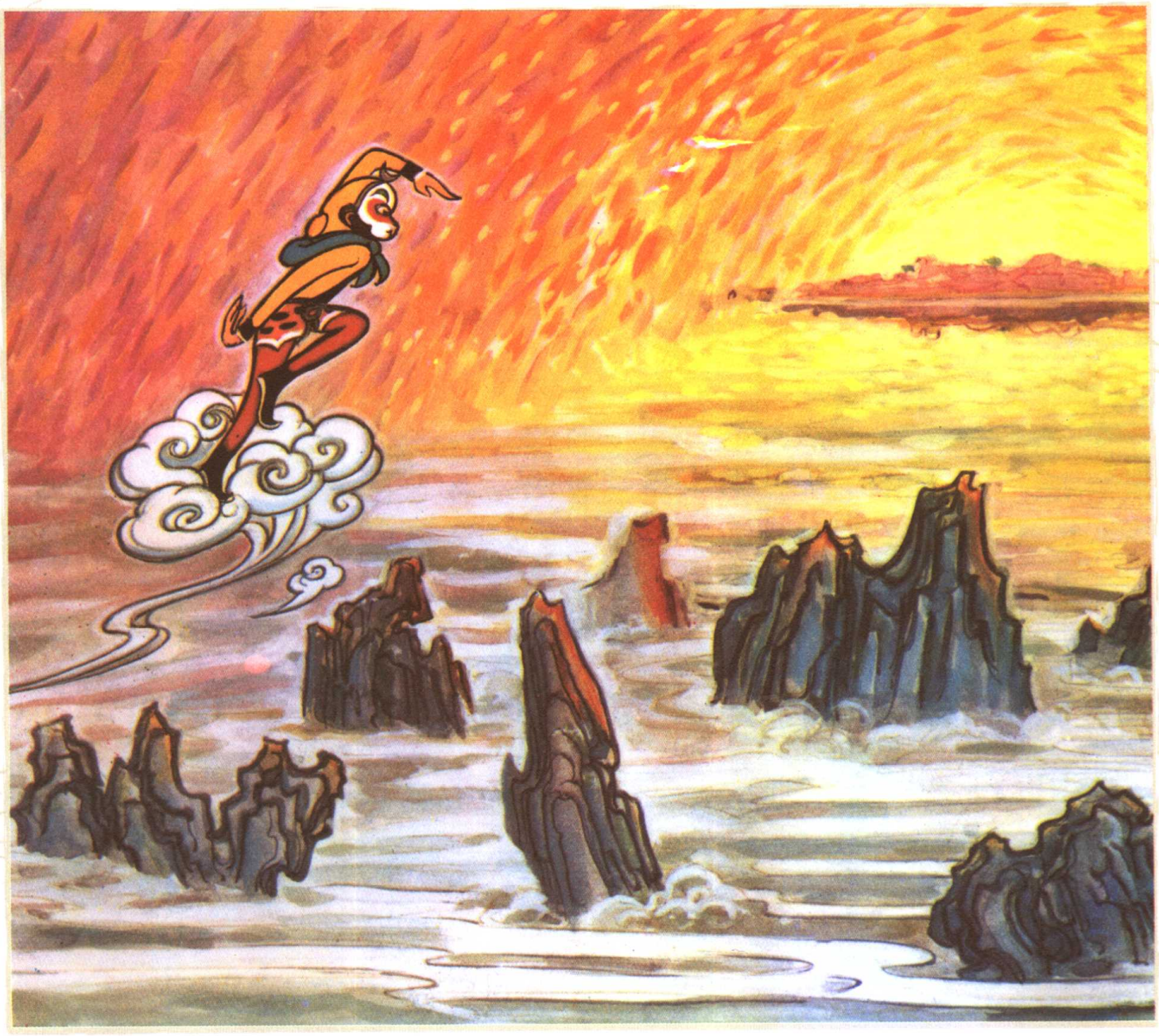
When the ogre came to the surface of the water, Pig had already jumped on the bank and was taunting him, "Have you got the guts to be a man, you evil monster? Come on up and fight." The ogre shouted back, "You'll never get me up on the bank as long as Monkey is there to help you against me. If you're strong enough, come back and fight me in the water."

When the Monkey King saw that the monster was not going to come up on the bank, he felt extremely frustrated and angry. Suddenly he turned a somersault and stretched out his hand to grab the monster, but the ogre saw him in time, plunged back into the water and disappeared.



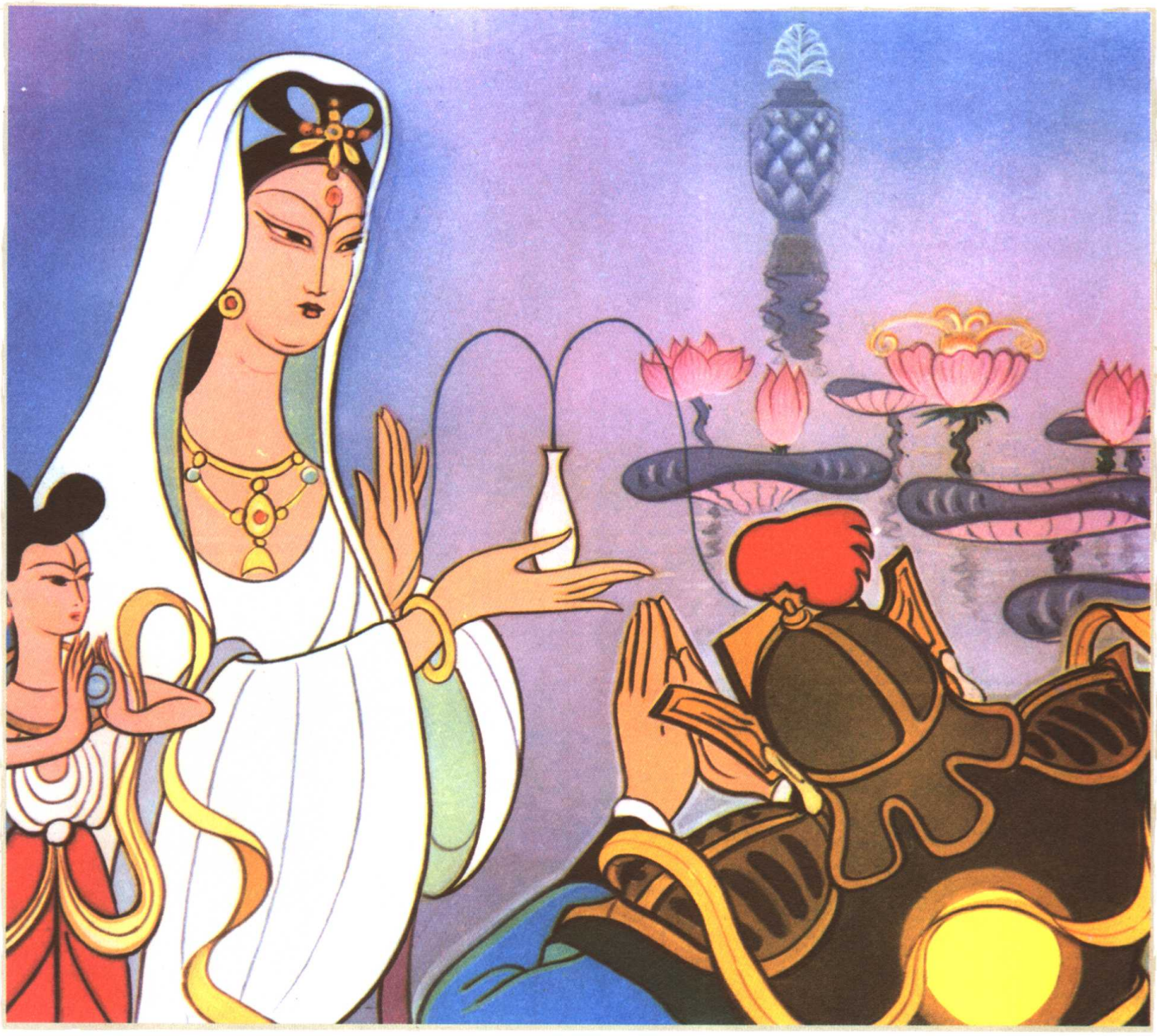
As Monkey had frightened the ogre away again Pig shouted at him, "You impatient ape, if you'd just waited until I'd got him out you could have cut him off. But now he's back in the water goodness only knows if he'll ever come out again."

Monkey did not know what to do next. The two of them told the Tang Priest about the difficulties they were having with the ogre. "In other words," replied Xuanzang with tears in his eyes, "we may not be able to get across the river." "Don't worry, Master," Monkey assured him. "I'll go to the Southern Sea and ask the Bodhisattva Guanyin to help us."



"There's not a moment to be lost," said the Tang Priest. "Come back as quickly as possible." Then Monkey somersaulted off on his cloud over mountains and rivers. In an instant the Bodhisattva's paradise island of Potaraka in the Southern Sea was in sight.

Sun Wukong landed his cloud outside the Purple Bamboo Grove, where the twenty-four gods came forward to greet him. Monkey said, "My master is in difficulty and has asked me to speak to the Bodhisattva." The gods replied, "Please wait a minute while we tell her you're here."

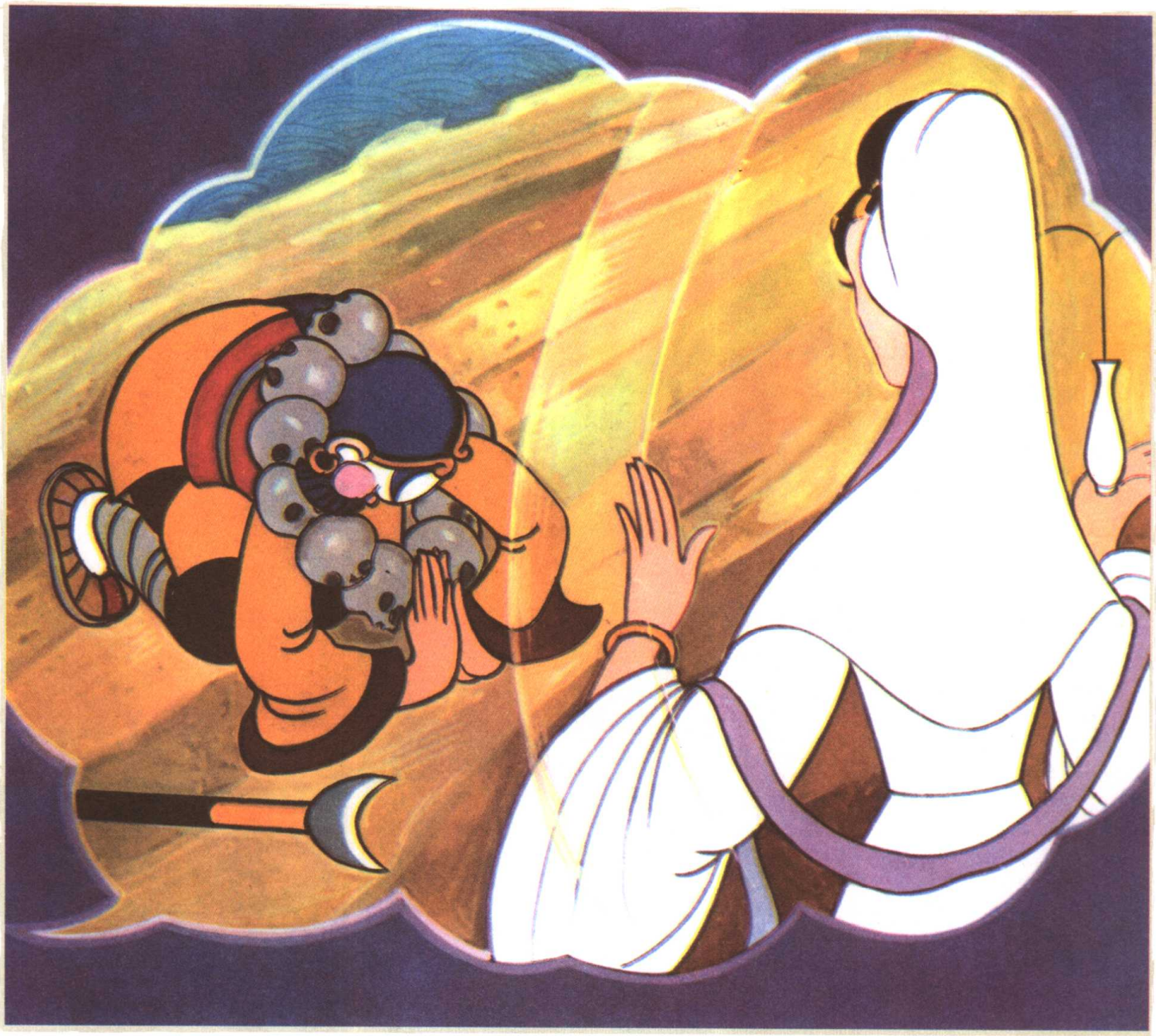


The Bodhisattva Guanyin was admiring the blossoms in her lotus pool with the Gold Boy and Jade Girl while she heard the report from the twenty-four gods. Then she asked, "Why has he come to see me instead of escorting the Tang Priest to the West?"

Monkey came forward to see the Bodhisattva Guanyin, knelt on the ground and told her the whole story of how the Tang Priest had met the ogre at the Flowing Sands River.

The Bodhisattva told him, "That ogre was once the Jade Emperor's Curtain-Raising General in the Hall of Miraculous Mist. After he smashed a goblet at a Peach Banquet, he was exiled to the Flowing Sands River."

"This ogre causes a lot of trouble at the river," continued Guanyin. "When he is feeling hungry, he comes ashore and eats up woodcutters and fishermen."



"I passed that way once," she went on, "and urged the ogre to mend his ways. I told him he should wait there until a pilgrim comes by on his way to the West. He can make the journey with him. That will make up for all the wicked things he has done."

The Bodhisattva called in her disciple Moksa, produced a red bottle-gourd from her sleeve, and told him how to use it. Then she asked Moksa to go with Sun Wukong to the Flowing Sands River, deal with the ogre, and help the Tang Priest cross the river.

Moksa and the Monkey King said farewell to the Bodhisattva and rode quickly on rosy clouds to the Flowing Sands River. Before long they were in the sky above the river.

The Tang Priest and Zhu Baije were waiting anxiously on the bank. Suddenly Pig saw two people in the sky. He looked carefully, recognized Monkey and Moksa, and took a few steps forward.

Sun Wukong told the Tang Priest what the Bodhisattva Guanyin had said. "So you will help us to bring this monster under control, Moksa?" Xuanzang said with relief. He was beginning to feel a little better.

Monkey escorted Moksa to the surface of the river and then returned to the bank to protect his master. Moksa then yelled fiercely, "Wujing, Wujing, the pilgrims who are going to fetch the scriptures from the West are here. Why haven't you submitted to them?"

The ogre, who was afraid that the Monkey King would down to fight him, was hiding among the water weeds in the river. But when he heard his Buddhist name called, he realized that this was a message from the Bodhisattva Guanyin.

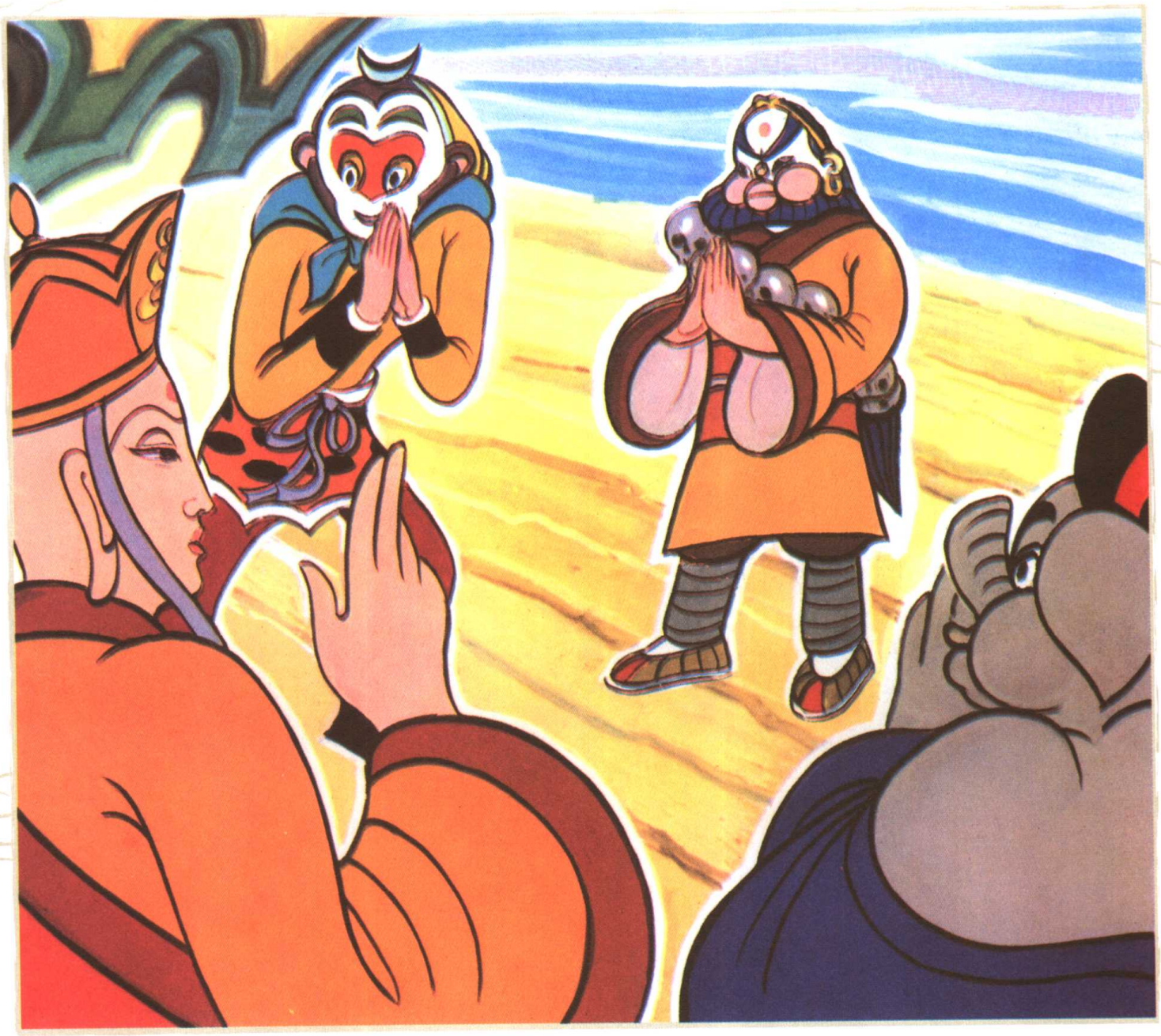
Now that he was no longer afraid of being attacked, he emerged from the waves. When he saw that the man speaking was Moksa, he hurried to apologize, "Please forgive me for the way I failed to greet you, Your Holiness."

"Why didn't you greet the Tang Priest when he came to the Flowing Sands River?" asked Moksa. "The Tang Priest? Where is he?" asked the ogre. Moksa pointed at Xuanzang and said, "He's that man sitting on the eastern bank."

When the ogre followed Moksa's finger, he saw the Tang Priest beside Pig and Monkey. One of them was carrying a rake, while the other was holding a big cudgel. "Wait a moment," said the ogre, "I'm not going with them. Those two monsters are ferocious."

Moksa reassured him. "Those two are Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie, two disciples of the Tang Priest. Now that you have been converted by the Bodhisattva, you are all brothers. You have nothing to fear from them. Go ahead and greet your master."

At that, the ogre jumped ashore, knelt before the Tang Priest and said, "Master, please forgive me for attacking your disciples. I want to accompany you to the West to fetch the true scriptures."

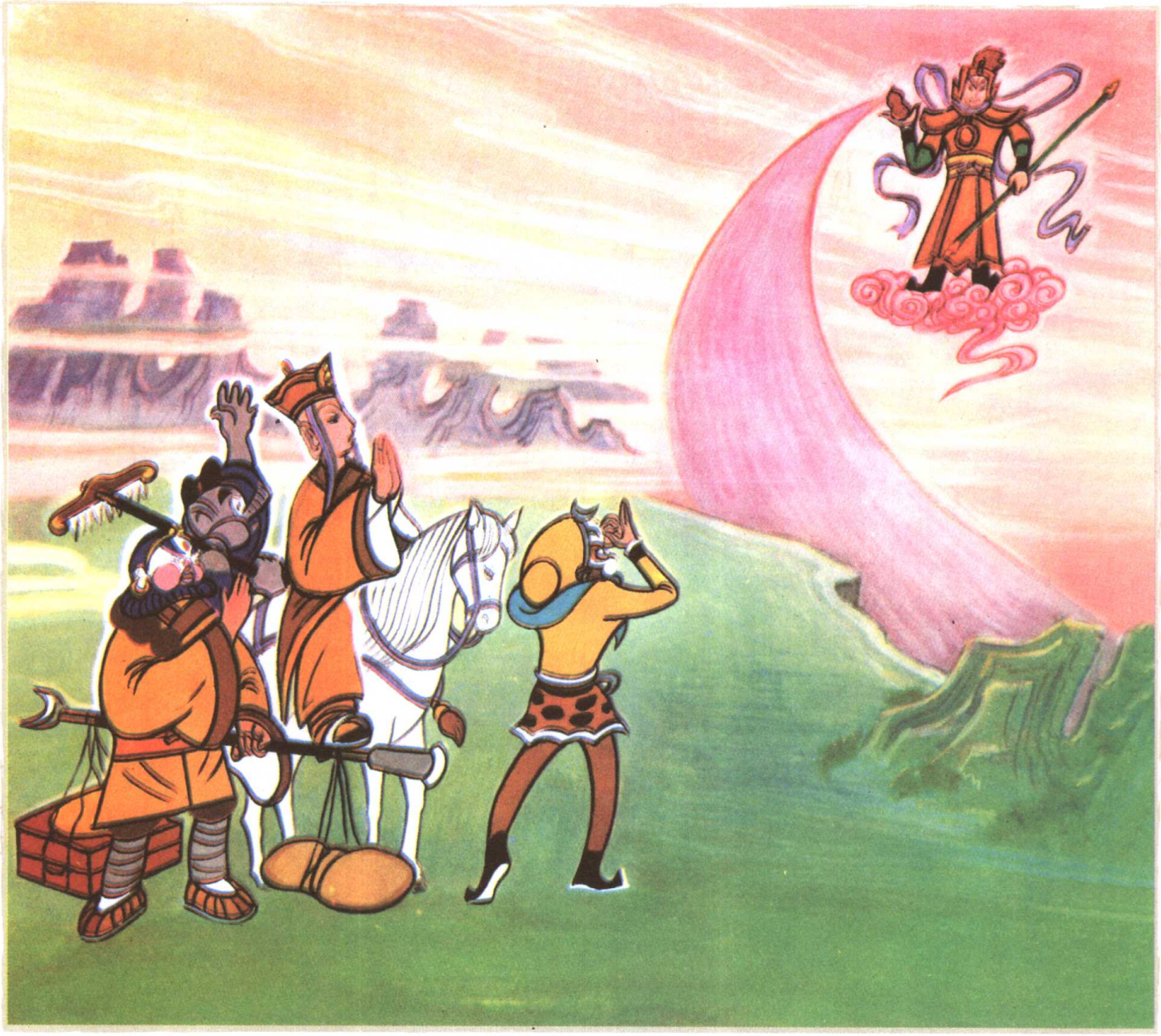


Since the ogre seemed very sincere and had been converted by the Bodhisattva, the Tang Priest let him join their pilgrimage party as the third disciple. Wujing bowed to his master again in gratitude. When the Tang Priest saw that he spoke and acted just like a real monk, he gave him another Buddhist name, Friar Sand.

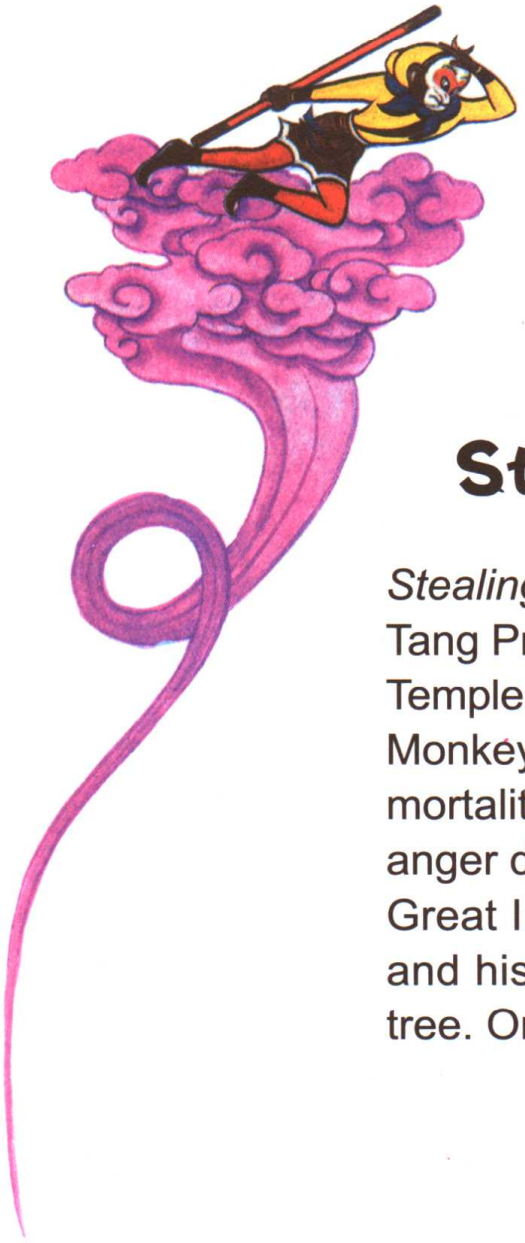
Friar Sand then took off the skulls that were slung around his body and replaced them with a necklace of nine holy beads. Then he tied the nine skulls together with a rope and threw them into the river as Moksa told him to.

Moksa laid the red bottle-gourd that the Bodhisattva had given him on top of the floating skulls and used his magical powers. In a flash a wooden boat appeared in front of them.

The Tang Priest and his disciples boarded the boat. Although the water was very rough, the boat moved smoothly through the waves, just as if they were on dry ground.



In a few minutes the wooden boat brought them safely to the opposite shore. Moksa landed his cloud, took back the gourd and boat and prepared to return to Guanyin's paradise in the Southern Sea. The Tang Priest and his disciples bowed to Moksa in gratitude and continued on their journey to the West.



Stealing the Magic Fruit

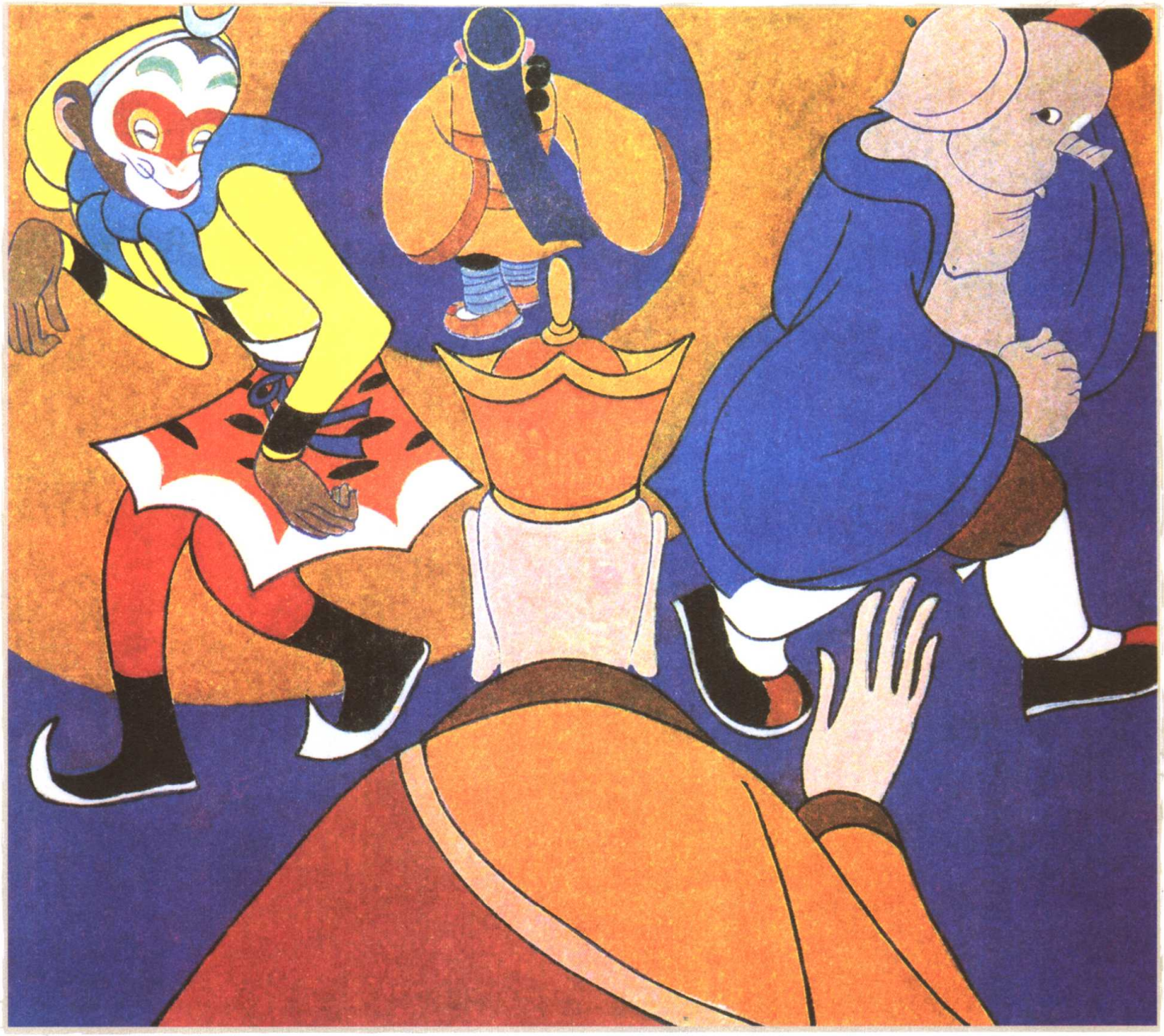
Stealing the Magic Fruit, tells what happens after the Tang Priest and his disciples arrive at the Five Village Temple on their way to the west to fetch the scriptures. Monkey and Pig steal and eat some magic fruit of immortality and after this is found out Monkey in a fit of anger destroys the tree. The abbot of the temple, the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan, catches the Tang Priest and his disciples and demands recompense for his tree. Only Monkey's ingenuity can save them.

One day the Tang Priest and his three disciples, Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand, climbed a high mountain on their way to the Western Heaven to fetch the scriptures. It was a wonderful place with crags, torrents, trees and bamboos. "What a splendid mountain!" the Tang Priest kept saying.

Seeing a high building in front of them, they went closer and saw a stone tablet on which was written MOUNTAIN OF INFINITE LONGEVITY: FIVE VILLAGE TEMPLE. "This is a Taoist temple, disciples," said the Tang Priest. "Let us go in and rest." "Right," said Monkey. "We'll all go in together."

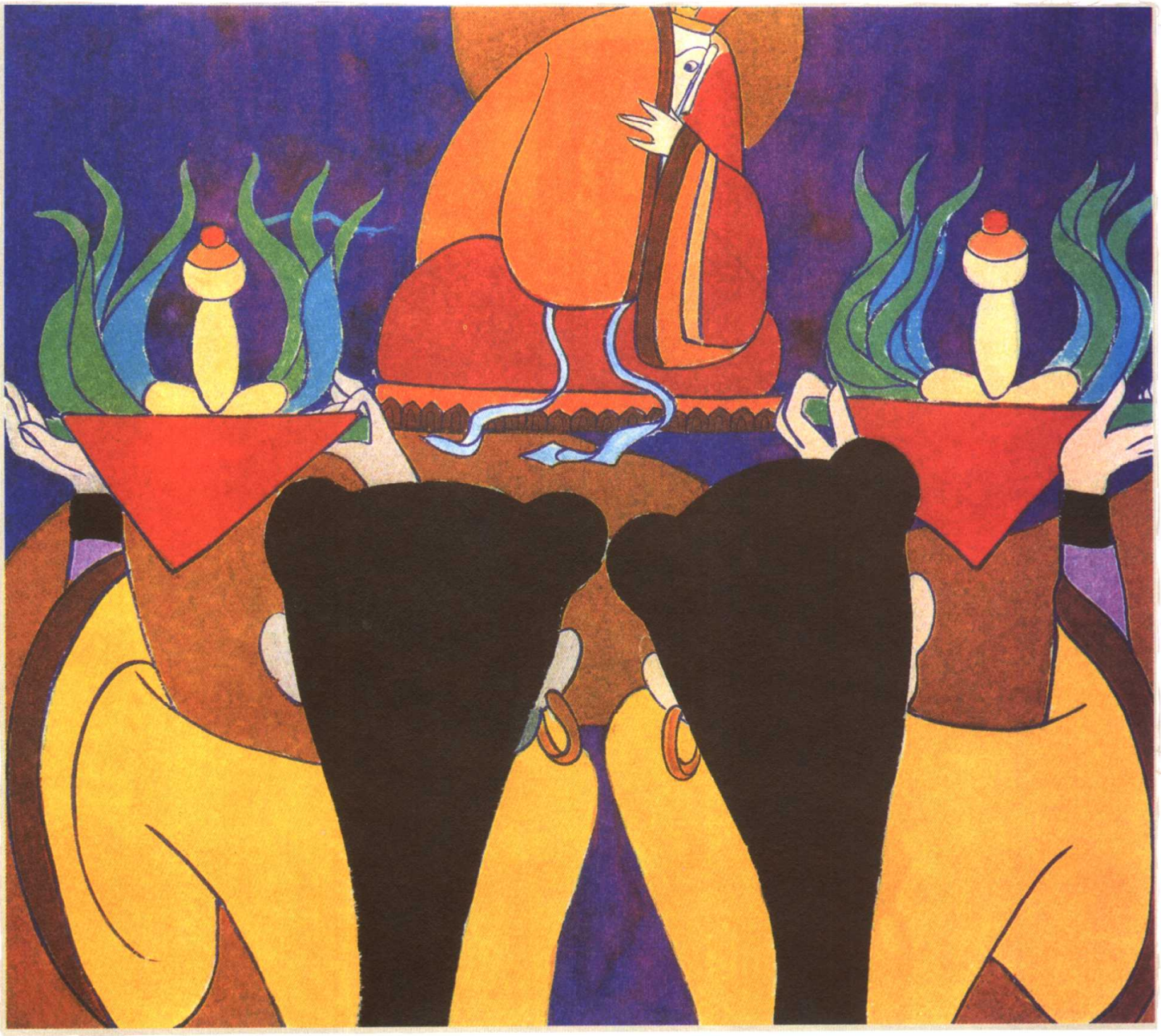
When the four travellers reached the inner gate, two Taoist novices came out to greet them. "Our names are Pure Breeze and Bright Moon," they said. "Welcome, venerable sir."

Pure Breeze and Bright Moon took the Tang Priest into the main hall of the temple. "Where is your master?" the Tang Priest asked. "Our teacher, the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan, has been invited to the Miluo Palace in Heaven to preach on the Primal Way," they were quick to explain. "Before he left, he told us to entertain you, venerable sir." They offered him tea at once.



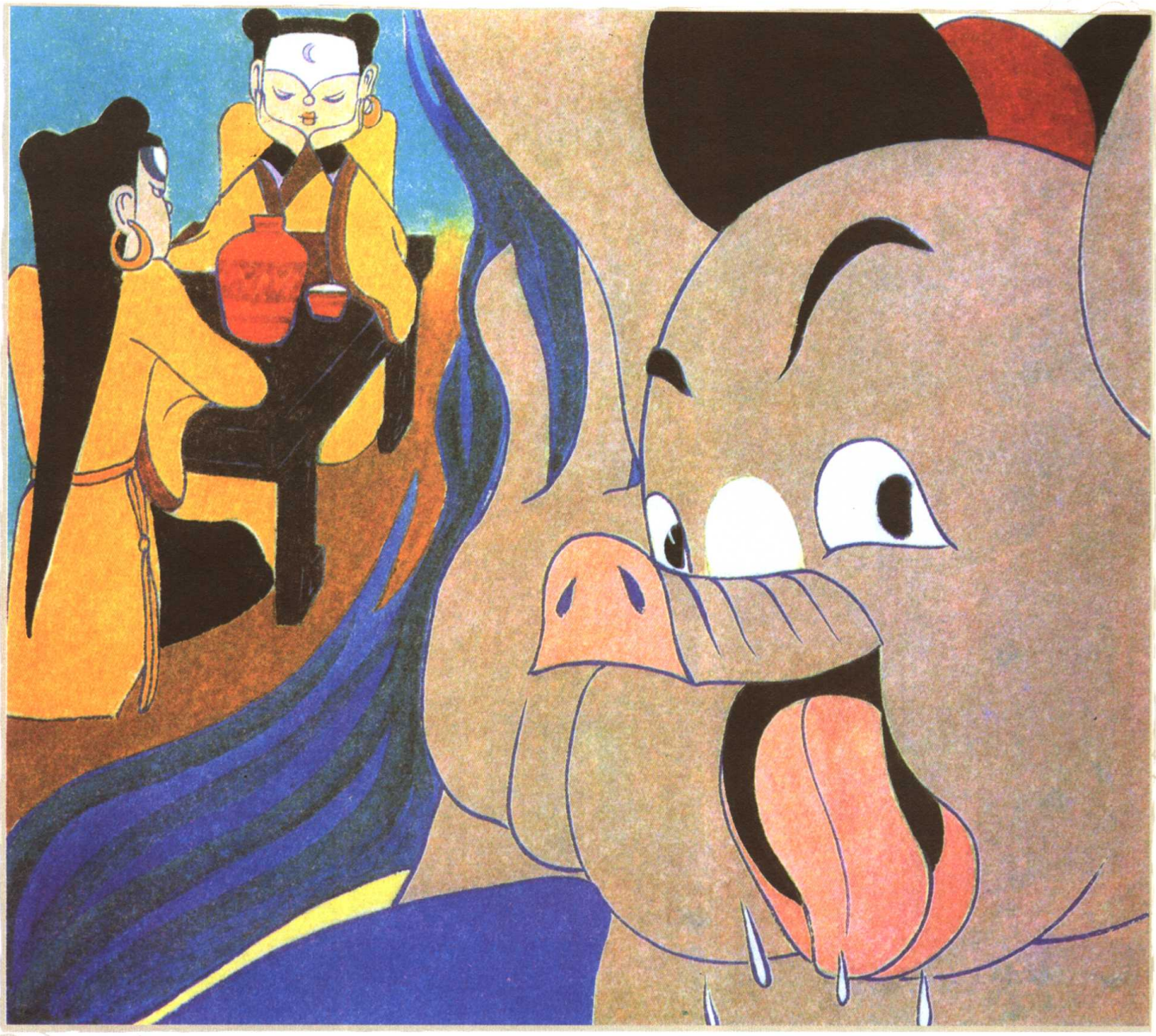
When he had drunk his tea, the Tang Priest said, "Monkey, go and pasture the horse on the mountainside. Friar Sand, look after the baggage outside the gates. Pig, fetch some rice from the baggage and cook it in the kitchen here." The three disciples went off to do as he had ordered.

As soon as the disciples had left, the two novices asked the Tang Priest to wait while they went out for a moment. They then went straight to the garden at the back of the temple, where Pure Breeze climbed a great tree and knocked down two magic fruits with a golden hammer for Bright Moon to catch and put on a tray. The fruits looked just like newborn babies, not three days old.



Pure Breeze and Bright Moon carried the fruits to the main hall. "Venerable sir," they said to the Tang Priest, "our master told us before he left that as we have nothing else here to offer you, we were to give you these two magic fruits." The sight of the fruits made the Tang Priest shake with fear. "What a fine thing!" he exclaimed with horror. "These are evidently newborn babies, not three days old. How could I possibly eat them?"

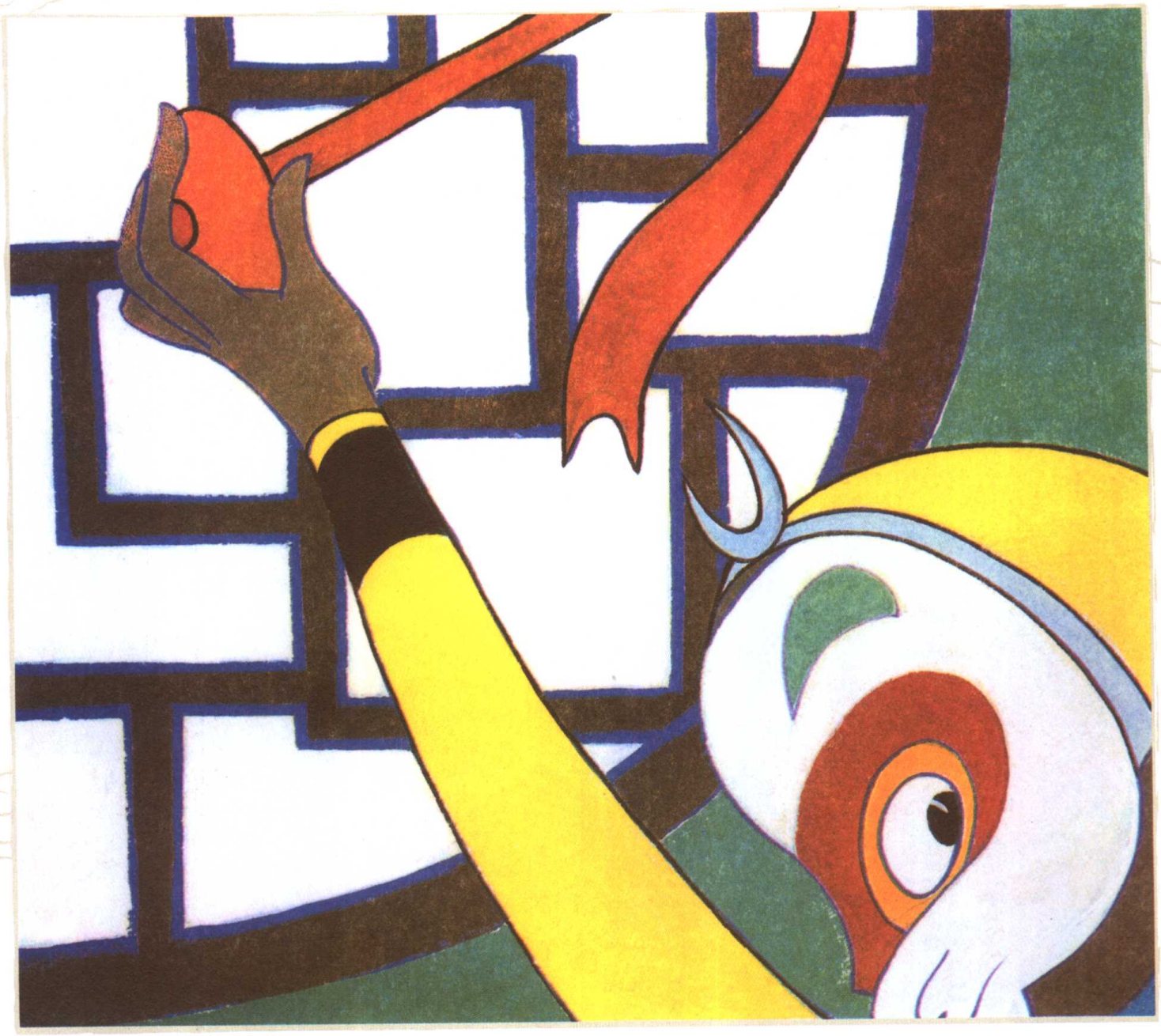
Pure Breeze and Bright Moon kept trying to explain that these were magic fruits that took ten thousand years to ripen. Whoever ate one would live for a very long time indeed. The Tang Priest did not believe them, so the novices took the two fruits back to their own room. "The old fool doesn't know magic fruits when he sees them," Pure Breeze said to Bright Moon. "If they're left too long, they go hard. We'd better eat them ourselves." They sat down and ate one each.



While the novices were talking they were overheard by Pig, who was cooking in the next room. What he heard made his mouth water, and he lost all interest in cooking the rice.

When Monkey brought the horse back, Pig called him over and told him what the novices had said. "You're very clever with your hands," said Pig, "so why don't you go into the garden and steal us a few?"

"That'll be easy," said Monkey. He was just about to go when Pig grabbed him and said, "From what I heard them saying, you'll need some kind of golden hammer to knock the fruit down." "I know, I know," replied Monkey with a wink.



Monkey slipped into the novices' room, which was empty because they had gone back to the hall to keep the Tang Priest company. Monkey searched the room till he saw a golden hammer hanging by the window and took it down.

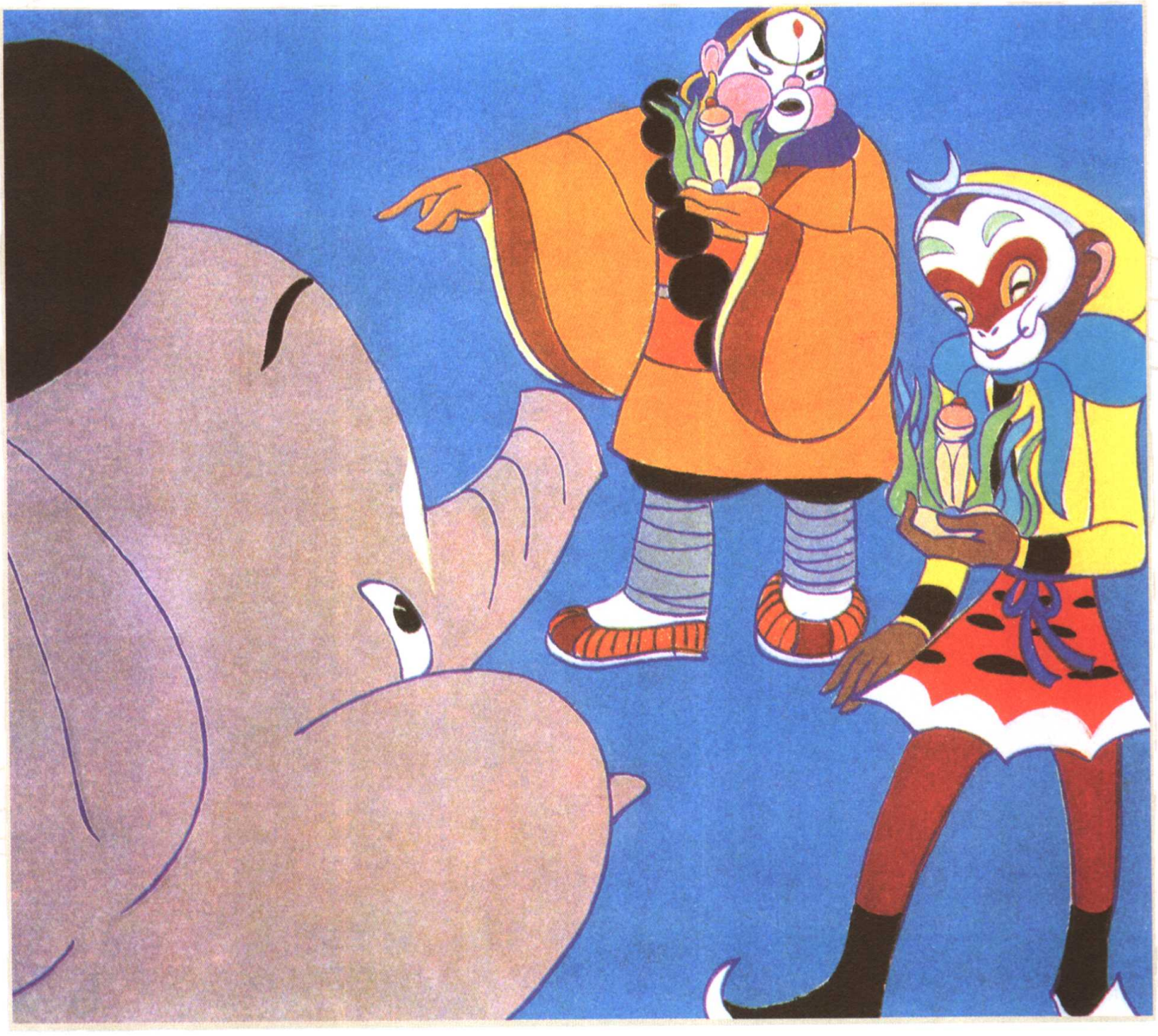
In the middle of the temple garden Monkey saw a huge tree over a thousand feet tall. On the sunny side of the tree he could see fruits shaped like newborn babies.

"What marvellous things!" thought Monkey. "They're fantastic!" He went whistling up the tree, hit one of the branches several times with the golden hammer and brought a couple of the fruits tumbling down. When he jumped to the ground to look for them, they were nowhere to be seen.

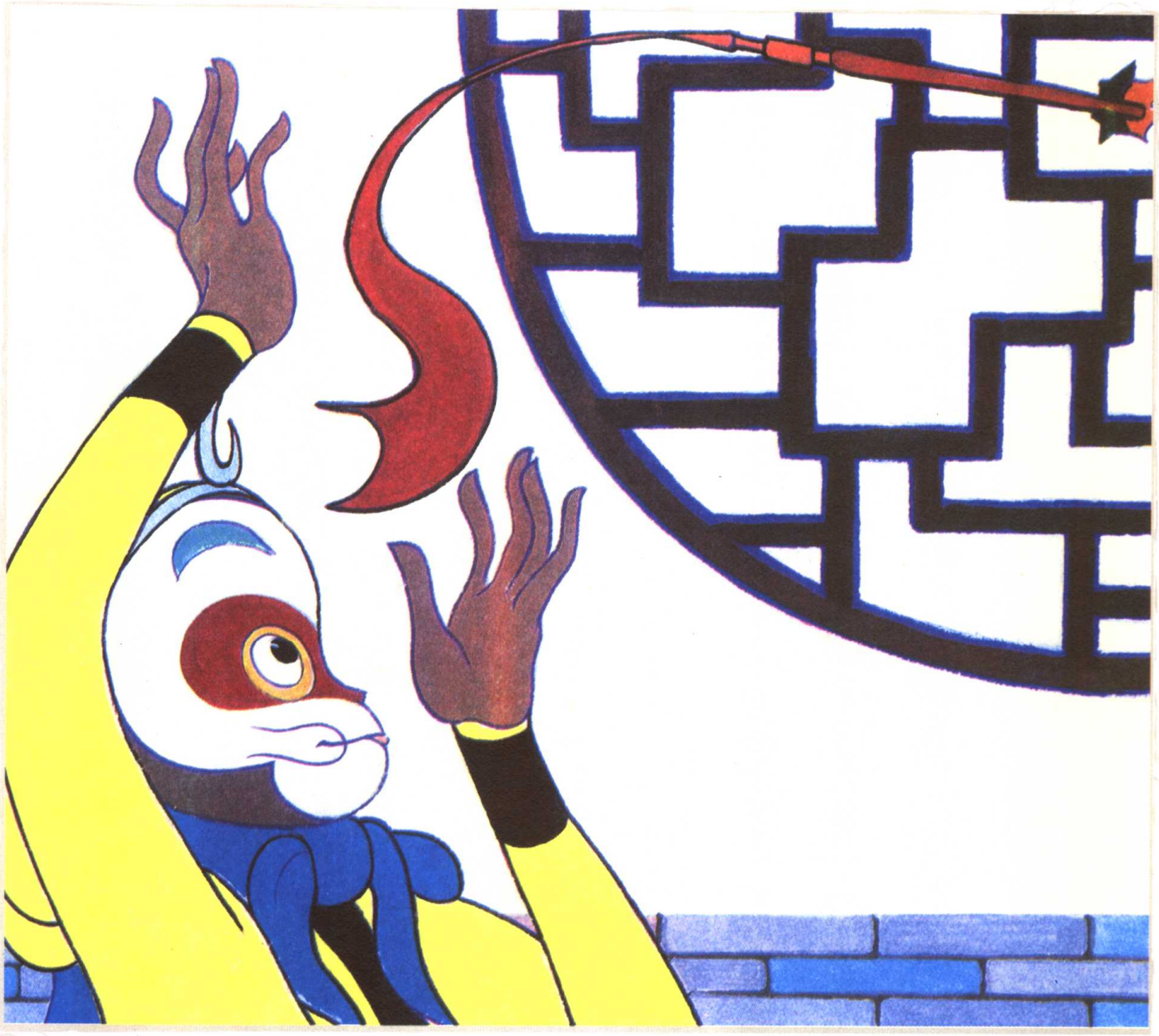
"That's very odd," thought Monkey, "very odd indeed! I suppose the god of the garden must have put the fruits away to stop me from stealing them." He said a spell that summoned the garden god. "What are your orders, Great Sage?" the god asked. "I picked a couple of the fruits to try," said Monkey in a thoroughly bad temper, "and that was none of your business, so why did you interfere?"

"Great Sage, you've misjudged me," the garden god protested. "Only thirty fruits ripen every ten thousand years. If you get so much as a sniff at one, you can live to be three hundred sixty, and if you eat one, you'll live for forty-seven thousand years. The fruits fall when touched by metal, wither at the touch of wood, melt in water, are burned by fire, and disappear into the ground as soon as they touch it. They can be knocked down only with metal implements, and they have to be caught on trays padded with silk."

"In that case I wronged you," said Monkey. "You can go." The god went back to his shrine and Monkey climbed the tree again. He knocked three fruits down with the hammer and caught them by holding out his tunic with his other hand.



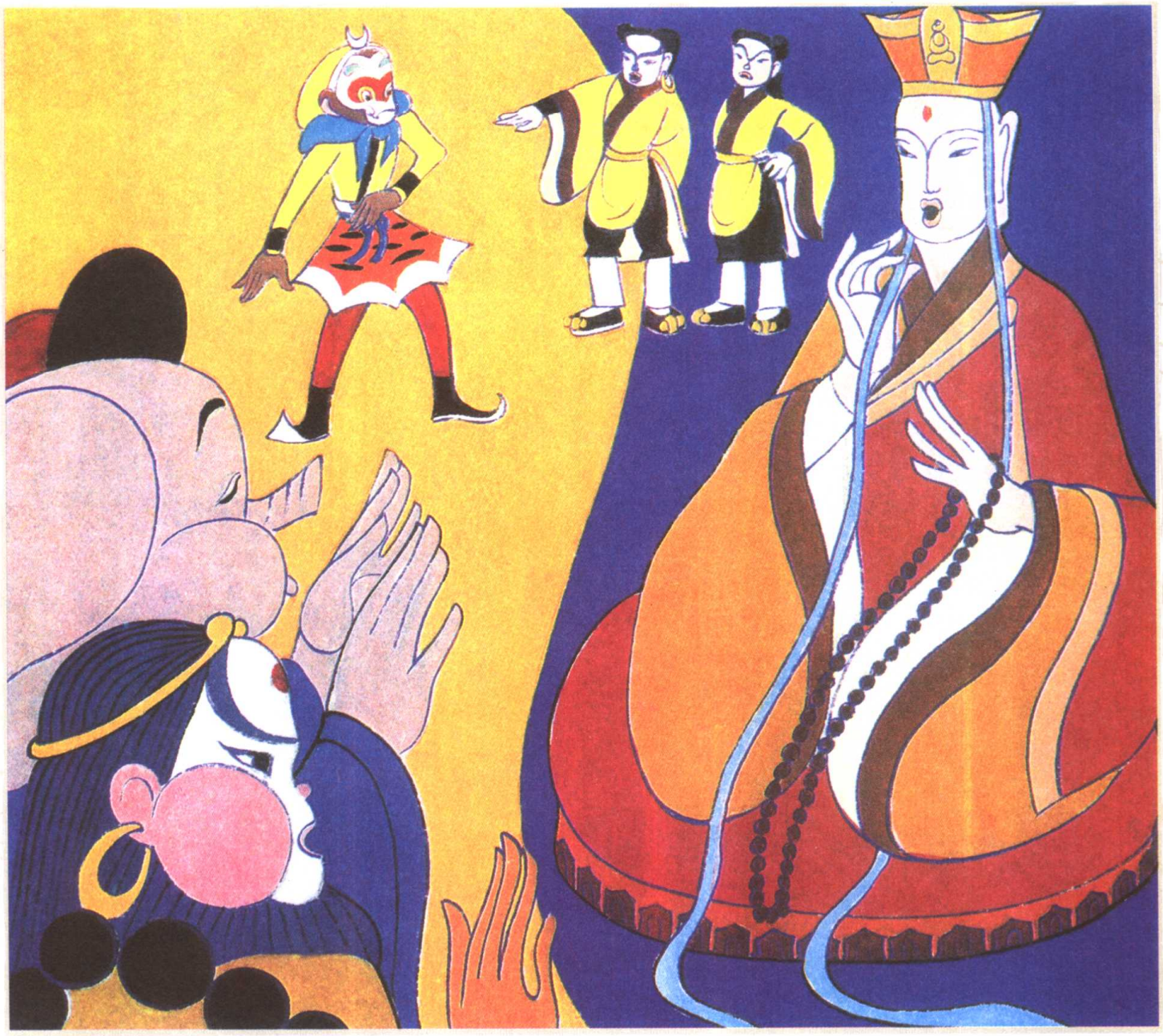
Monkey jumped down from the tree and went straight back to share the fruit with Pig and Friar Sand. By now Pig was feeling so hungry that he opened his mouth wide and swallowed a fruit whole. Then he complained that he had not tasted it and pleaded with Monkey to fetch a few more for him to savour slowly.



"You're never satisfied," said Monkey. "They are real treasures, not things to fill up on, like rice or noodles. Don't be so greedy. We're lucky to get one each." He then went outside the novices' room and threw the golden hammer in through the paper-covered window.

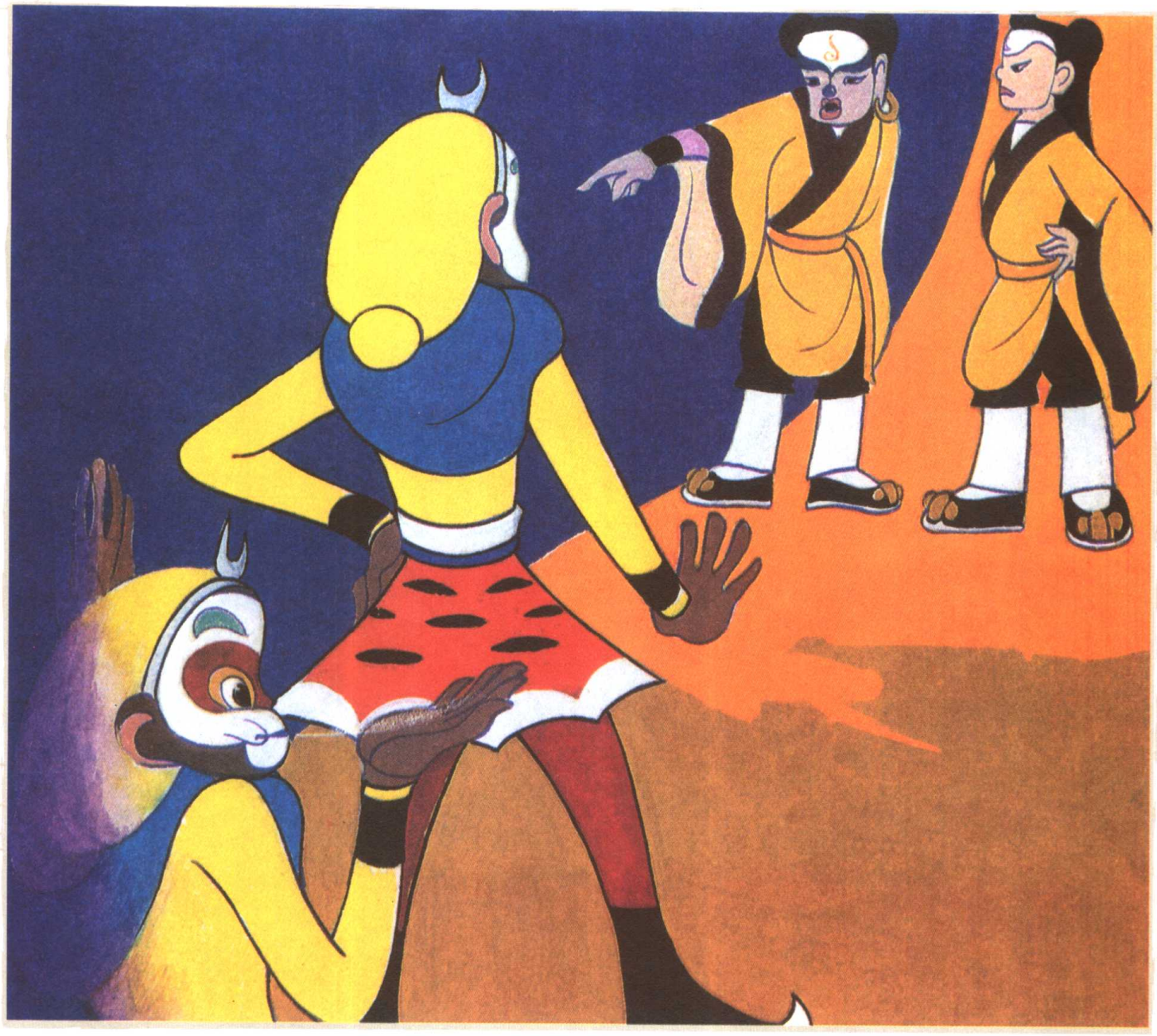
Pig, who was still hungry, kept on grumbling. Just then Pure Breeze and Bright Moon went into their room to fetch some tea and overheard Pig complaining, "I haven't had enough magic fruit. I want another." That made the novices very suspicious.

They hurried to the temple garden, where they found the gate wide open. They counted the fruits on the tree over and over again and found that they were five short. "Bright Moon," said Pure Breeze, "those Buddhist monks must have stolen them. Come on, let's go and have it out with them."



When Pure Breeze and Bright Moon reached the main hall, they started cursing the Tang Priest. This was more than he could take, so he told them to calm down and speak slowly. "You stole the magic fruit, so why shouldn't we curse you?" they replied. "Good Heavens!" said the Tang Priest. "The very sight of them made me shake with horror. How could I possibly have stolen and eaten them? Stop shouting and wait till I question my disciples. If they stole them, they will have to pay you back."

The Tang Priest sent for his disciples and asked which of them had stolen the magic fruit. Pig wanted to deny it, but Monkey said truthfully, "Master, when Pig heard the two novices in the room next to the kitchen talking about eating the magic fruit, he wanted to try one and asked me to knock three of them down. We three had one each. Well, they're eaten now. What are you going to do about it?"



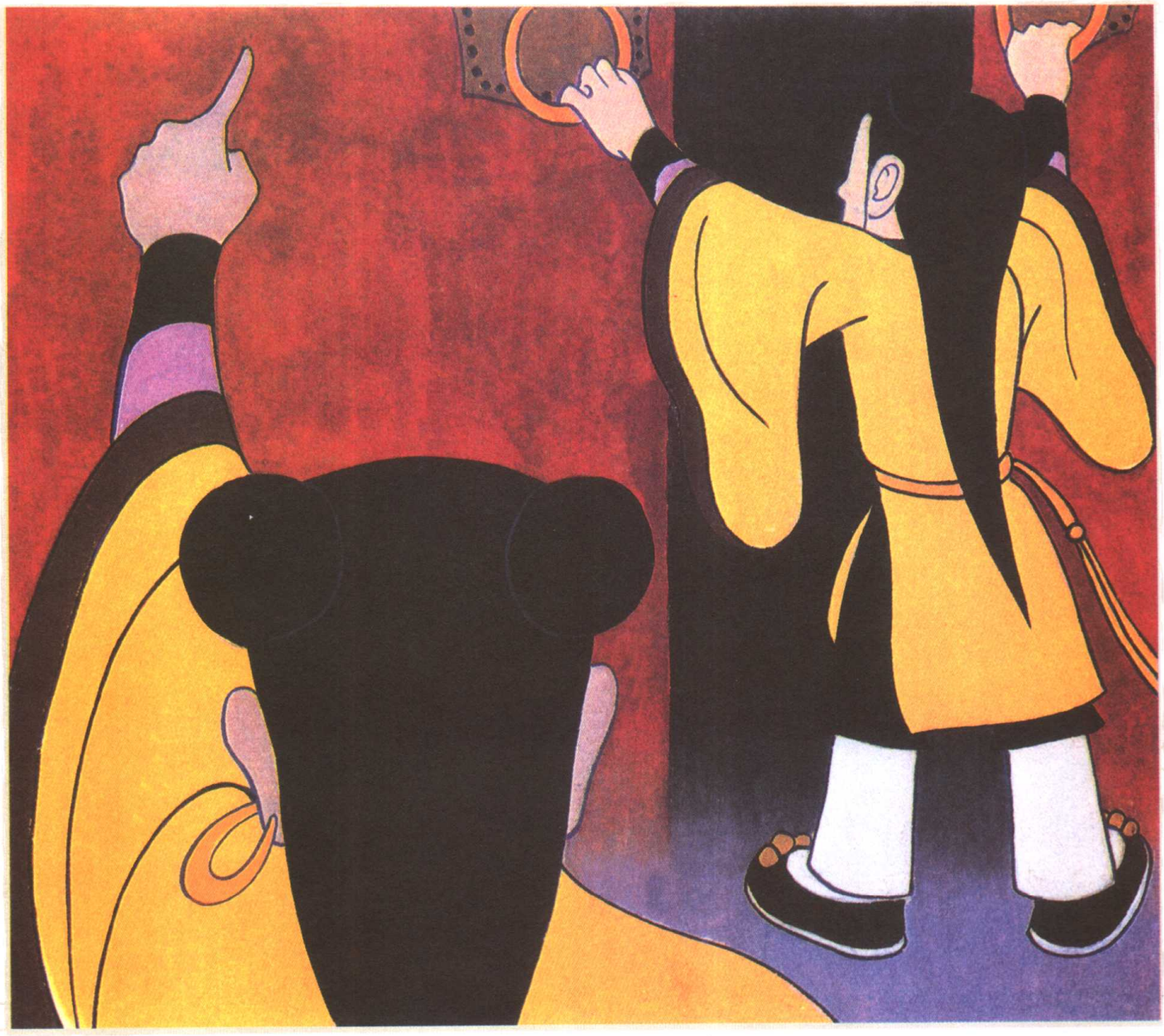
Pure Breeze and Bright Moon started cursing even more furiously now that the truth had come out. This made Monkey grind his teeth with anger. Pulling a hair from the back of his head, he blew a magic breath on it and said, "Change!" It turned into a double of himself to stand there and be sworn at while the real Monkey somersaulted away.

Back by the magic fruit tree in the garden, Monkey used his magic power to send the tree crashing down with a swing of his gold-banded cudgel. All the fruit fell to the ground and went straight into it. "Fine," said Monkey, "fine! That'll be something else for those novices to start swearing about."

Putting his cudgel away, Monkey shook himself and put his hair back on his body. Nobody realized what he had done. When Pure Breeze and Bright Moon noticed that despite all their abuse the Tang Priest and his disciples were saying nothing, they went back into the garden to investigate. At the sight of the fallen tree with its fruit all gone they were horror-struck. "They've destroyed our temple's great treasure," Pure Breeze said. "What are we going to tell our master when he comes back?"

"Keep your voice down," said Bright Moon, "and don't alarm those monks. Would we two a match for the four of them? Let's keep them quiet till the master comes back. He can decide how to deal with them."

The two novices forced themselves to look cheerful as they went back to the hall, bowed and said, "Please forgive us for being so rude just now. We've counted the fruits again, and they are all there." Monkey knew they were lying but said nothing. "In that case," said the Tang Priest, "bring the rice and let us eat."



Pure Breeze and Bright Moon quickly fetched their meal, and the moment the pilgrims started eating, they slammed and locked the doors of the hall. Then they locked the inner and outer gates of the temple.

"Baldheaded thieves," they yelled, "stealing our magic fruit and destroying the magic tree. You can forget about going to the Western Heaven to fetch the scriptures." They kept up their abusive shouting till they went to bed that night. The Tang Priest was angry with Monkey for having got them all into this terrible trouble. "Cheer up, Master," said Monkey. "Once the novices are asleep, I'll sort things out."

In the dead of night Monkey did some lock-opening magic. He had only to point at the doors for all the locks to fall off and the doors and gates to swing open.

Monkey led his master out to mount the horse. With Friar Sand leading the animal and Pig carrying the baggage they headed towards the west. "Move along slowly while I go back and make sure that those two boys stay asleep for a month," Monkey said. "You must not kill them, disciple," said the Tang Priest.

"I understand," Monkey replied, and he went outside the novices' room, plucked out one of his hairs, turned it into a couple of sleep insects, and flicked them in through the window. The insects went straight to Bright Moon and Pure Breeze's faces, making them sleep more soundly than ever.

Monkey then caught up with the Tang Priest and they headed west together, travelling till dawn without a moment's rest. "Let's sleep for a while among these trees beside the path," said Monkey. "That will give us more energy for the rest of the journey."

The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan came back from the Heavenly Palace with all his junior immortals to find the temple gates wide open. They went inside and saw Bright Moon and Pure Breeze fast asleep. No matter how loud they shouted, the two novices wouldn't wake up.

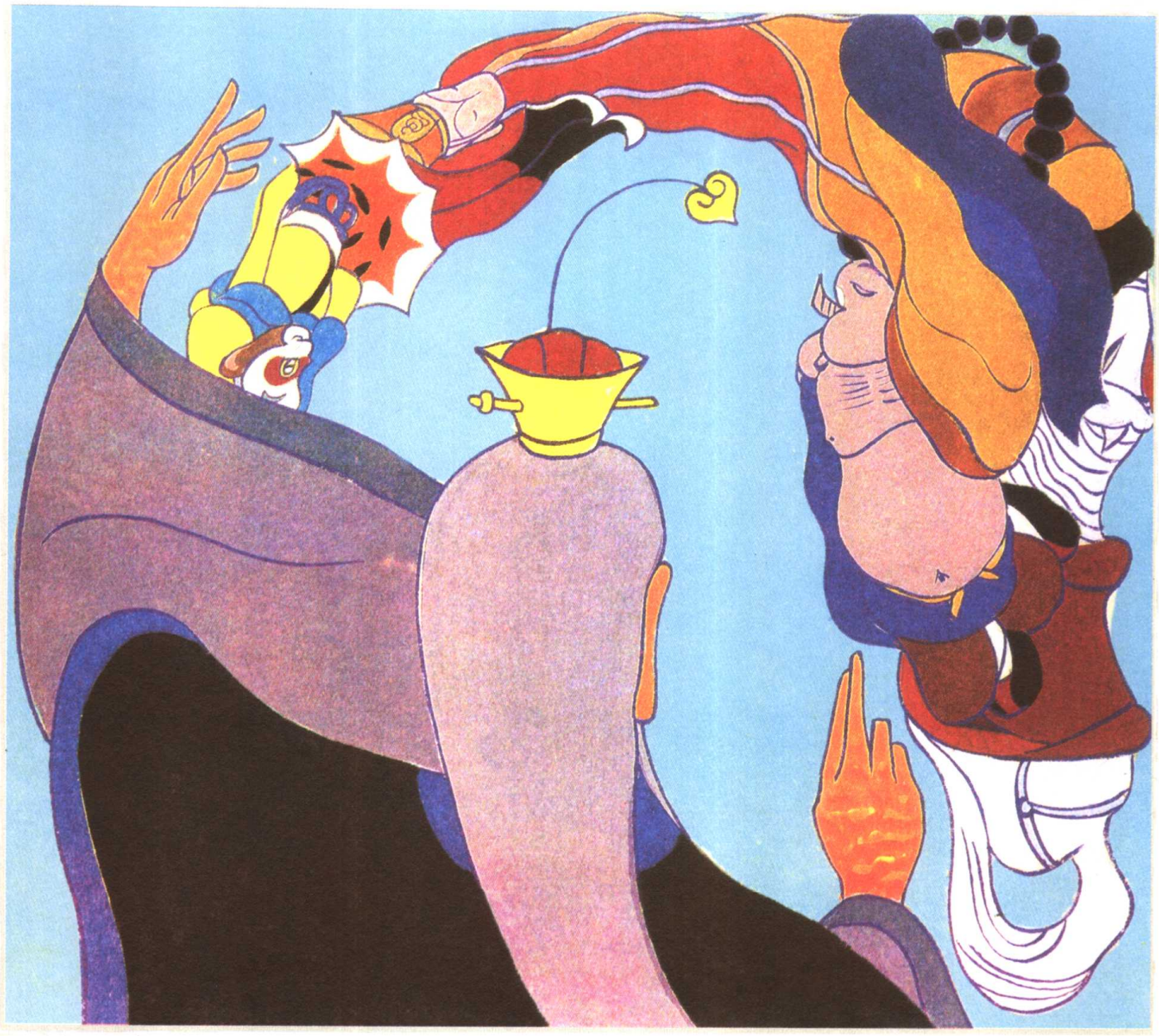
Only when the Great Immortal sent for pure water and sprinkled it on them did Bright Moon and Pure Breeze come to.

Opening their eyes and rubbing their faces, Bright Moon and Pure Breeze sat up and saw that their master had returned. At once they knelt down, bowing low, and told him how the Tang Priest and his disciples had come to the temple, stolen and eaten the magic fruit and destroyed the magic tree.

The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan did not lose his temper when they told him this but carried them by auspicious cloud in pursuit of the pilgrims. Before long Pure Breeze and Bright Moon called out, "There they are, under the trees by the path!" "I see them," said the Great Immortal. "Go back and get some rope ready while I catch them."

The Great Immortal landed his cloud and asked the Tang Priest if he had been to the Five Village Temple. Monkey cut in straight away to deny that they had ever been there. "Impudent ape," said the Great Immortal, "you go to my temple, steal my magic fruit and destroy my wonderful tree. Then you deny it. Give me back my tree this moment!"

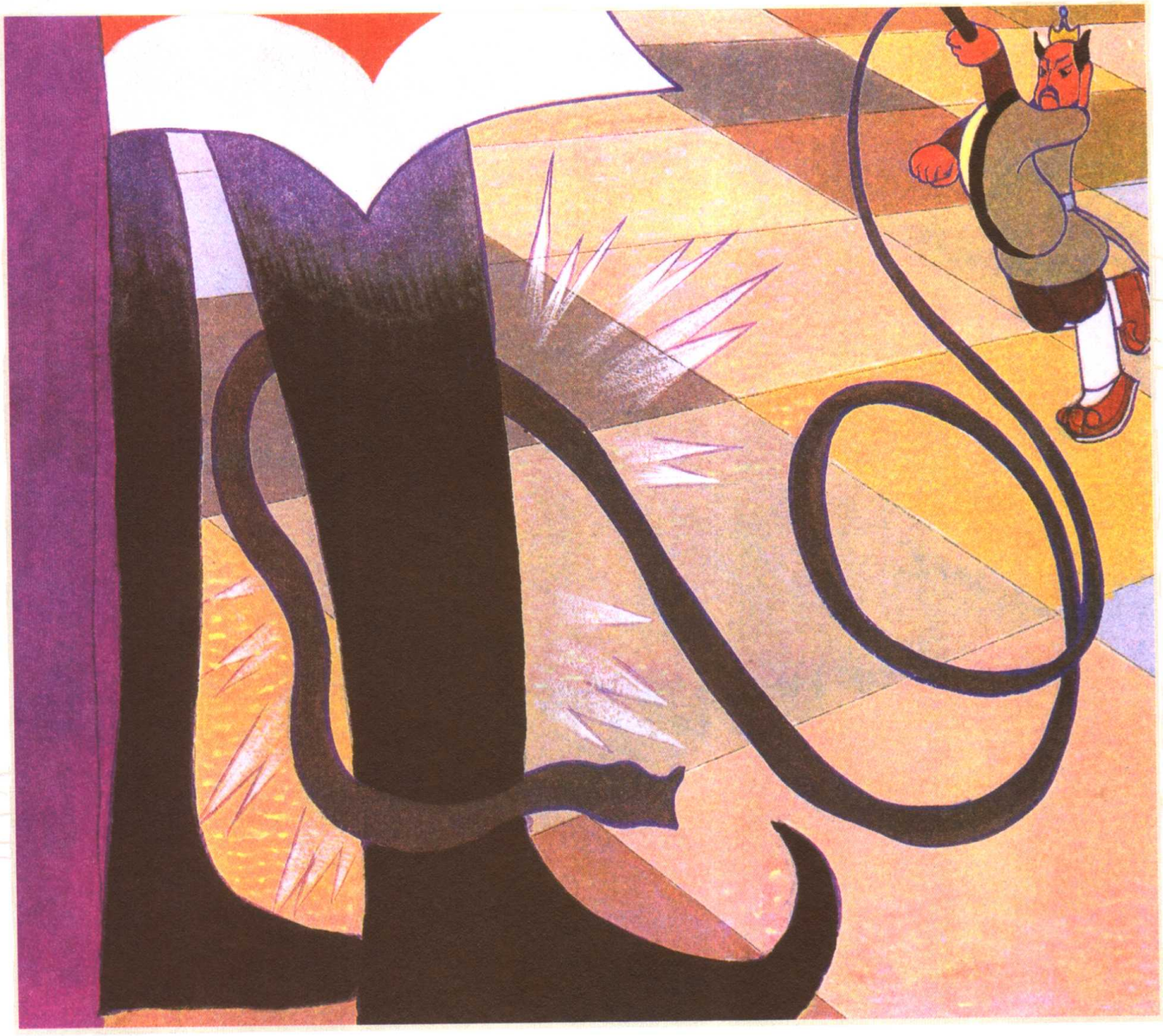
When Monkey heard this, he swung his gold-banded cudgel at the Great Immortal's head. The Great Immortal dodged the blow and rose into midair on his auspicious cloud. Monkey rose on his cloud too and went after him.



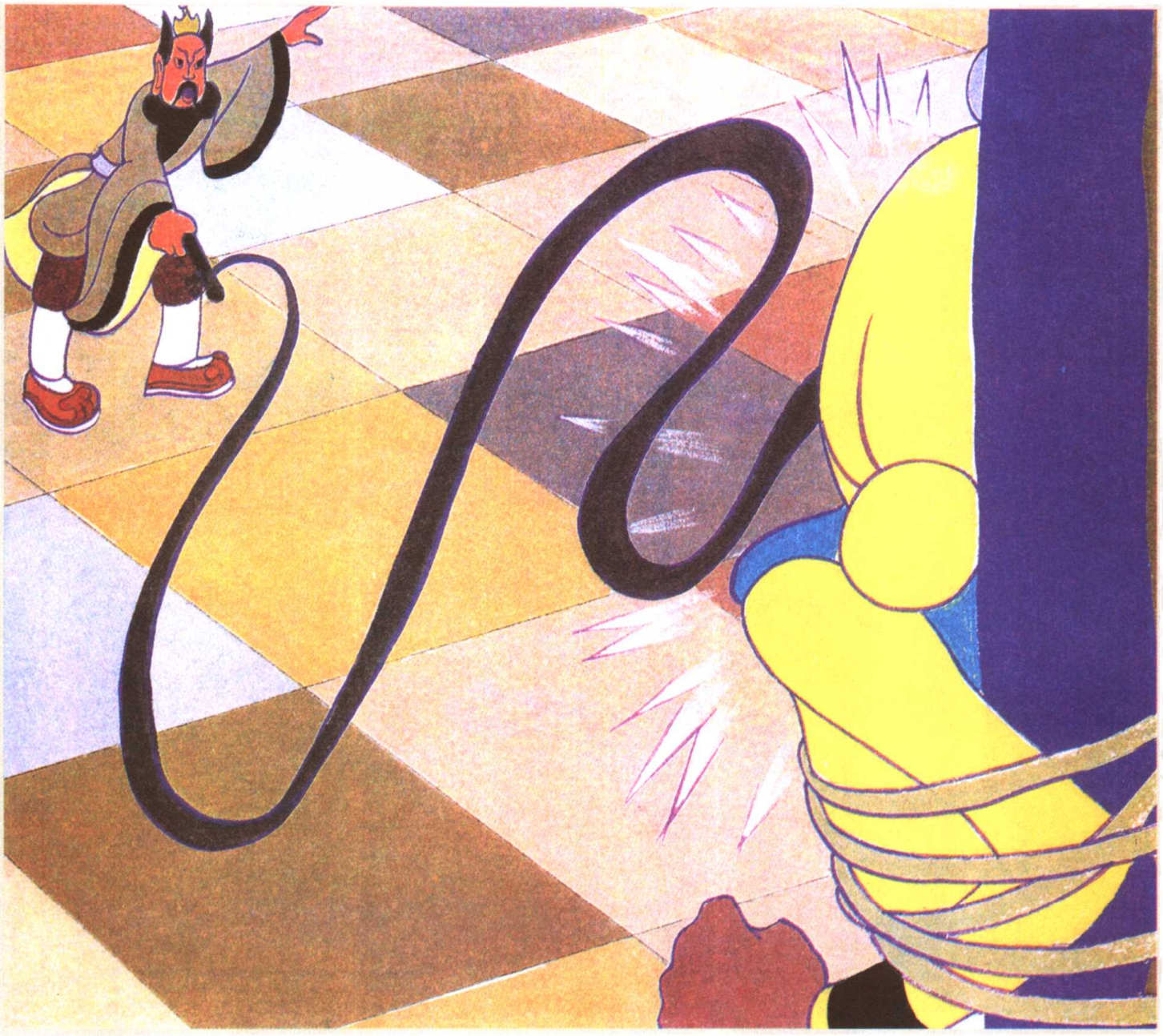
As Monkey lashed out wildly with his cudgel the Great Immortal parried his blows with his jade-handled whisk. After the two of them had fought three rounds, the Great Immortal used Wrapping Heaven and Earth in His Sleeve magic: He waved his sleeve lightly in the breeze, drew the Tang Priest and his disciples into it and held them inside.

The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan went back to the Five Village Temple and told his disciples to bring the rope. Then he took the Tang Priest and the other pilgrims out of his sleeve one by one and tied them to four pillars. The horse was tied up outside.

"These are monkes," the Great Immortal said, "so I can't use swords, spears or axes to dispose of them. Fetch a leather whip and give them a flogging first to get revenge for the magic fruit." The junior immortals fetched a seven-starred whip, soaked it in water, and were just about to start flogging the Tang Priest when Monkey called out.

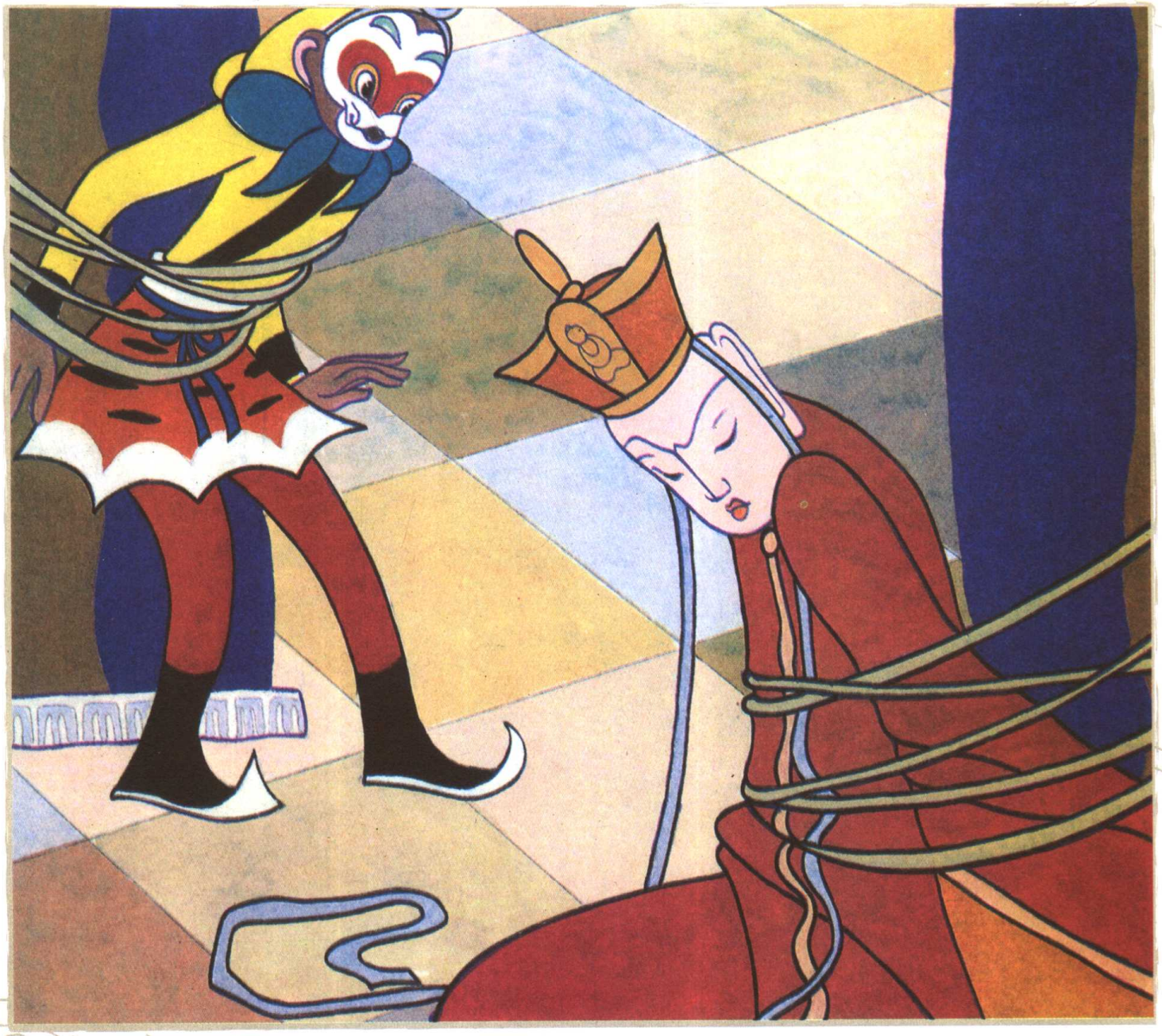


"You're mistaken, Great Immortal. It was I who stole the fruit and knocked the tree over. Flog me first." "This impudent ape is a very tough nut," said the Great Immortal with a chuckle. "Give him thirty lashes first." A junior immortal started swinging the whip, ready to flog him. Seeing that his legs were going to be flogged first, Monkey twisted his hips, said, "Change!" and turned both his legs to iron.



After Monkey had been flogged, the Great Immortal ordered, "Flog the Tang Priest; he failed to train his disciples strictly and allowed the insolent ape to run wild." "You're wrong again, Great Immortal," said Monkey. "The master was somewhere else when we disciples stole the magic fruit. As his disciple, I ought to take the flogging for him. If there's to be any more flogging, flog me." "This insolent ape does have a sense of duty," said the Great Immortal. "Very well, then, flog him again." Monkey was given another thirty lashes by a junior immortal.

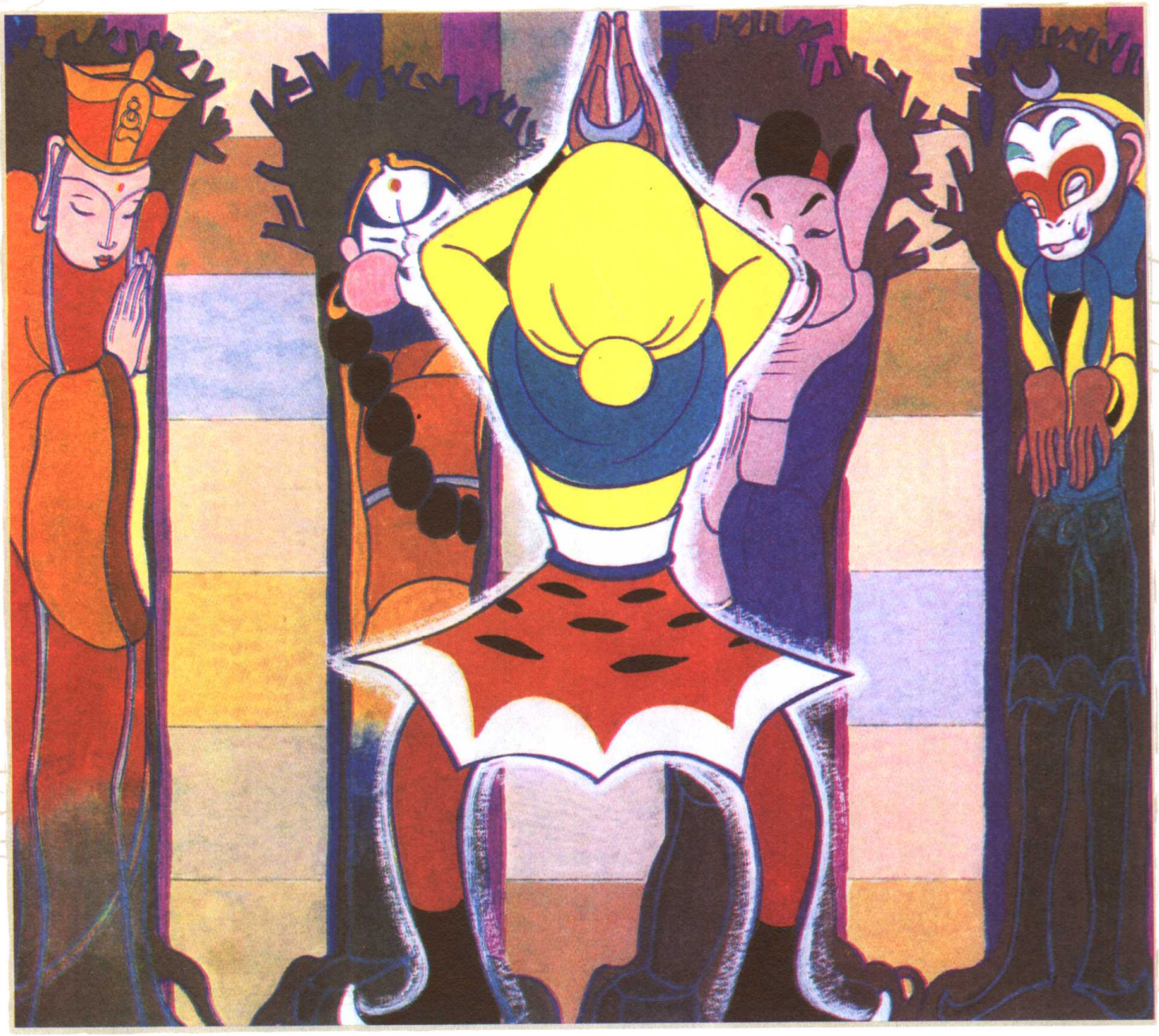
The junior immortal was exhausted and lathered in sweat. As it was now getting late, the Great Immortal said, "Leave the whips to soak overnight. The flogging and interrogation can continue in the morning."



The four pilgrims were still tied to their pillars. "You three caused all this trouble and dragged me into it too," grumbled the Tang Priest. "How are we going to get out of this?" "We can be on our way again in a moment," said Monkey to cheer him up.

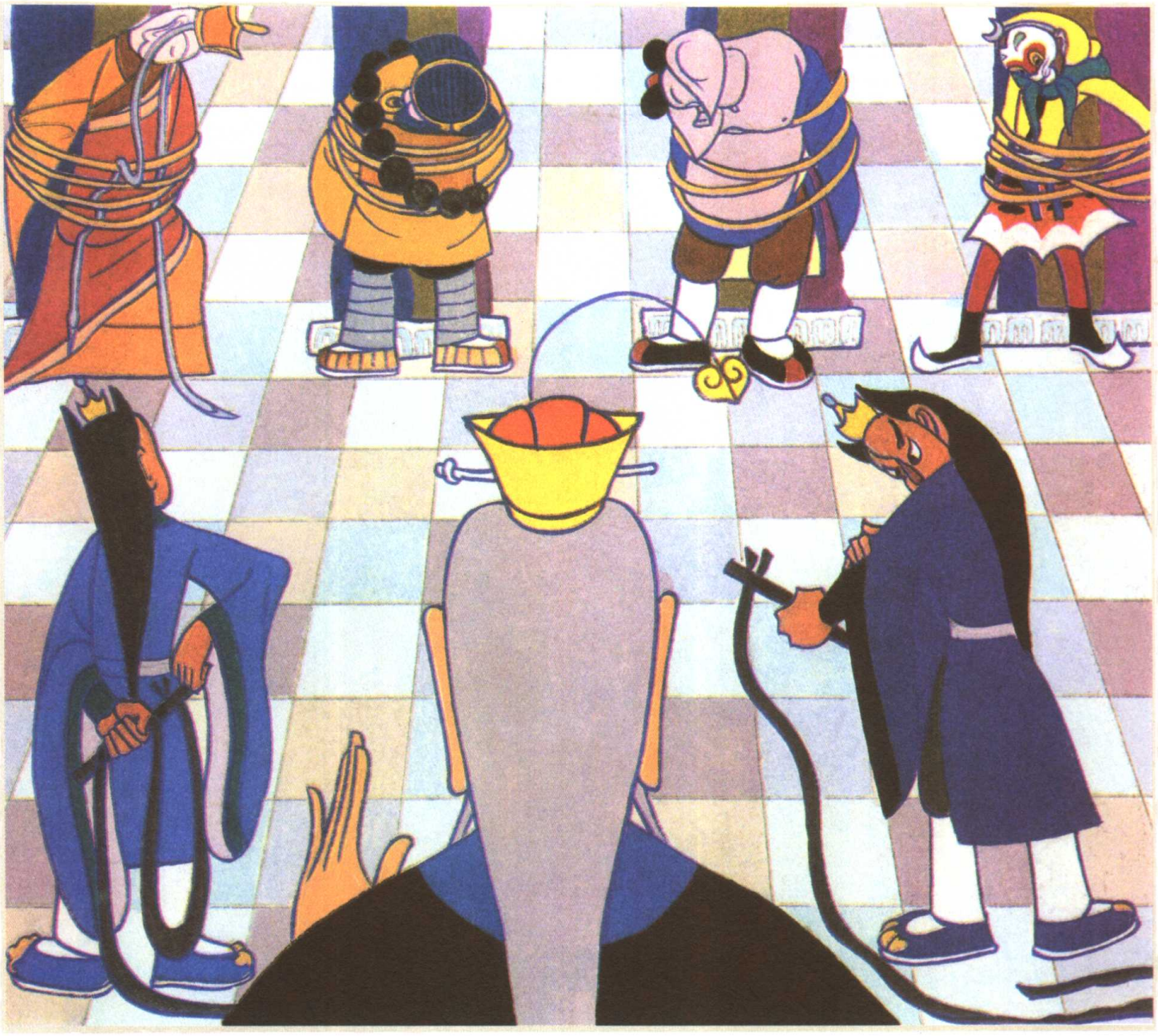
In the still of night Monkey shrunk himself and slipped out of the ropes binding him. Then he freed the others. They tidied up their clothes, saddled the horse, picked up the baggage and went out through the temple gates.

"Pull up four of those willow trees over there," Monkey said to Pig, who was very strong indeed. He walked over to the trees, pushed each of them over with a single thrust of his snout and carried them back to the temple gateway.



Monkey broke the branches off, then he and Pig took the trunks inside and tied them to the pillars to which they themselves had been tied a little earlier. After saying a spell, Monkey called out, "Change!" and turned the four willow trunks into the exact likenesses of the Tang Priest, Friar Sand, Pig and himself. They could even talk.

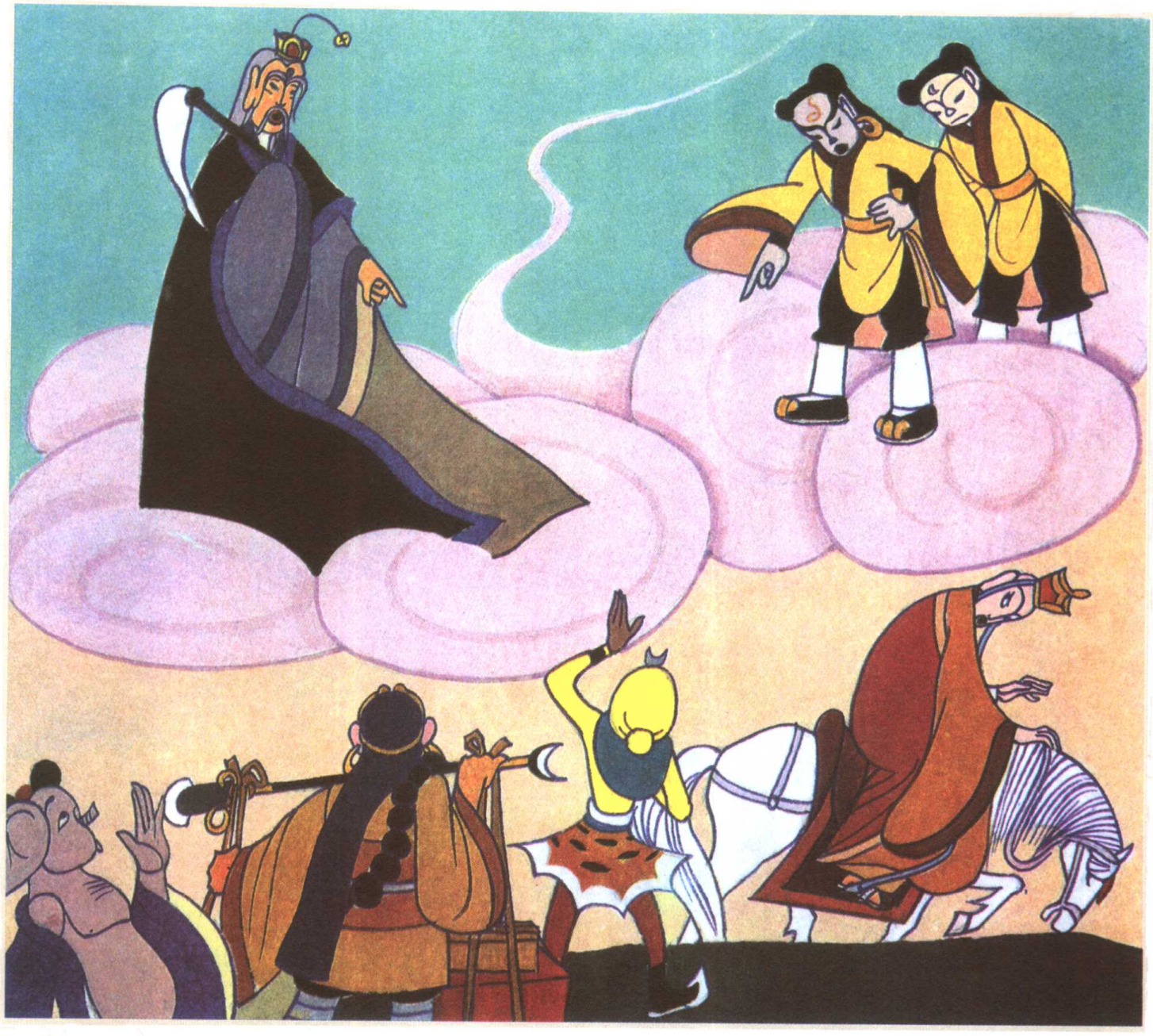
When everything had been done, the two of them left again and caught up with the master. That night the horse did not get a moment's rest. At dawn, when they were already far away from the Five Village Temple, Monkey could see that his master was tired, so he let them all rest in a sheltered spot on a hillside.



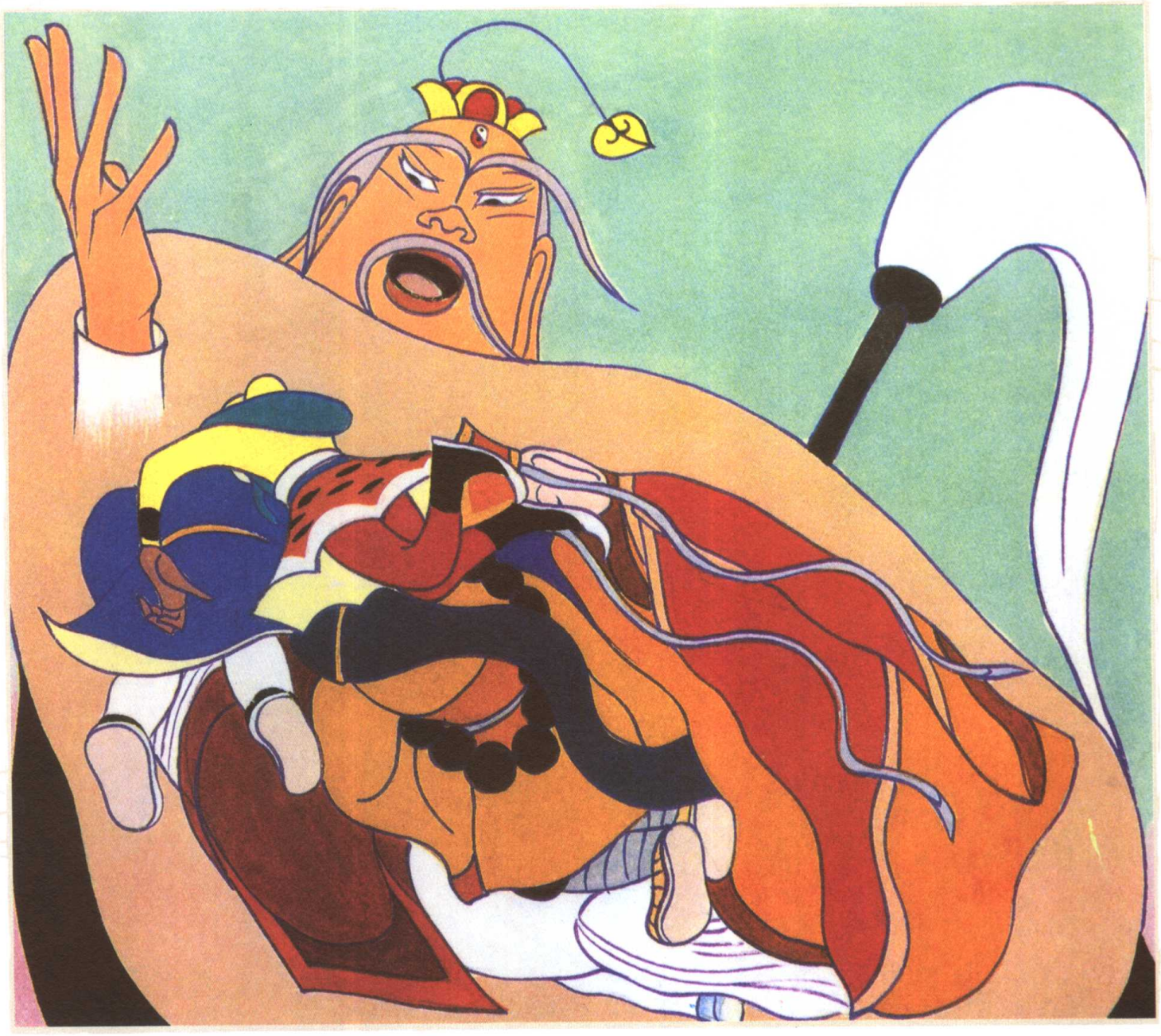
Meanwhile the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan, after eating his breakfast, told the junior immortals to give the Tang Priest, Pig and Friar Sand all a flogging. Little did he know that they were only imitations.

As the travellers were heading along the path, Monkey suddenly shivered. "This is terrible," he kept saying. "This is terrible. I thought that he wouldn't have me flogged again today after yesterday's flogging, but now my double's being flogged." At once Monkey said the words to end the spell.

One of the junior immortals was lashing the imitation Monkey when to his great astonishment it suddenly turned into a willow trunk. "That Monkey King really is splendid!" exclaimed the Great Immortal, chuckling. "I had heard he couldn't be caught in the heaven-and-earth nets when he made havoc in the palaces of Heaven. It really must be true. After him again!"



At once the Great Immortal rose up on his cloud and saw the four monks heading west. "Monkey," he called as he brought his cloud down to land, "where do you think you're going? Give me back my magic fruit tree!"



Monkey leaped into the air, brandishing his gold-banded cudgel. Pig and Friar Sand came up too, and they surrounded the Great Immortal, who had only to wave his whisk and open out his sleeve to draw the four travellers and their horse inside again.

Back at the temple, the Great Immortal again took them out from his sleeve one by one and had them tied to the trees on both sides of the steps. This time he ordered his junior immortals to fetch a huge cauldron, fill it with clean oil and light a fire underneath to boil the oil. He was going to deep-fry Monkey.

The news that he was to be fried in oil delighted Monkey, who looked around and saw a stone lion at the foot of the steps. He rolled over towards it, said, "Change!" and turned it into an exact double of himself tied up in a bundle, while he rose to watch from the top of a cloud what the Great Immortal was going to do.

The oil was now boiling. Four of the junior immortals tried but failed to lift the imitation Monkey. Eight of them had no more success. Only when twenty of them lifted together could they pick him up and drop him into the cauldron, splashing so much hot oil about that they all howled from getting scalded.

"The cauldron's leaking!" the immortal boys tending the fire shouted. "The cauldron's leaking!" The oil soon flowed away, revealing the stone lion that had smashed the cauldron.

"This is an outrage, you impudent ape!" shouted the Great Immortal, now beside himself with fury. "How dare you smash my cauldron? Fetch another, and cook the Tang Priest in it this time." When Monkey heard this, he brought his cloud straight down and bowed to the Great Immortal. "Don't fry my master," he pleaded. "Let me go in the pot again."

The Great Immortal grabbed Monkey's hand and said he was going to take him to the Western Heaven to file a complaint against him before the Lord Buddha and demand compensation for his magic tree. "That's no problem," said Monkey with a grin. "If you let my master go, I'll give you back your living tree." "If you can bring my tree back to life, I'll take you as my sworn brother," replied the Great Immortal. Monkey expressed his appreciation.

The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan told his junior immortals to release the prisoners. "I'm going to the Eastern Ocean to call on all the immortals and sages on the three islands and ten continents to ask for a magic way of bringing this dead tree back to life," Monkey said to the Tang Priest. "The Great Immortal has given you a time limit of three days," the Tang Priest replied, "so be quick."

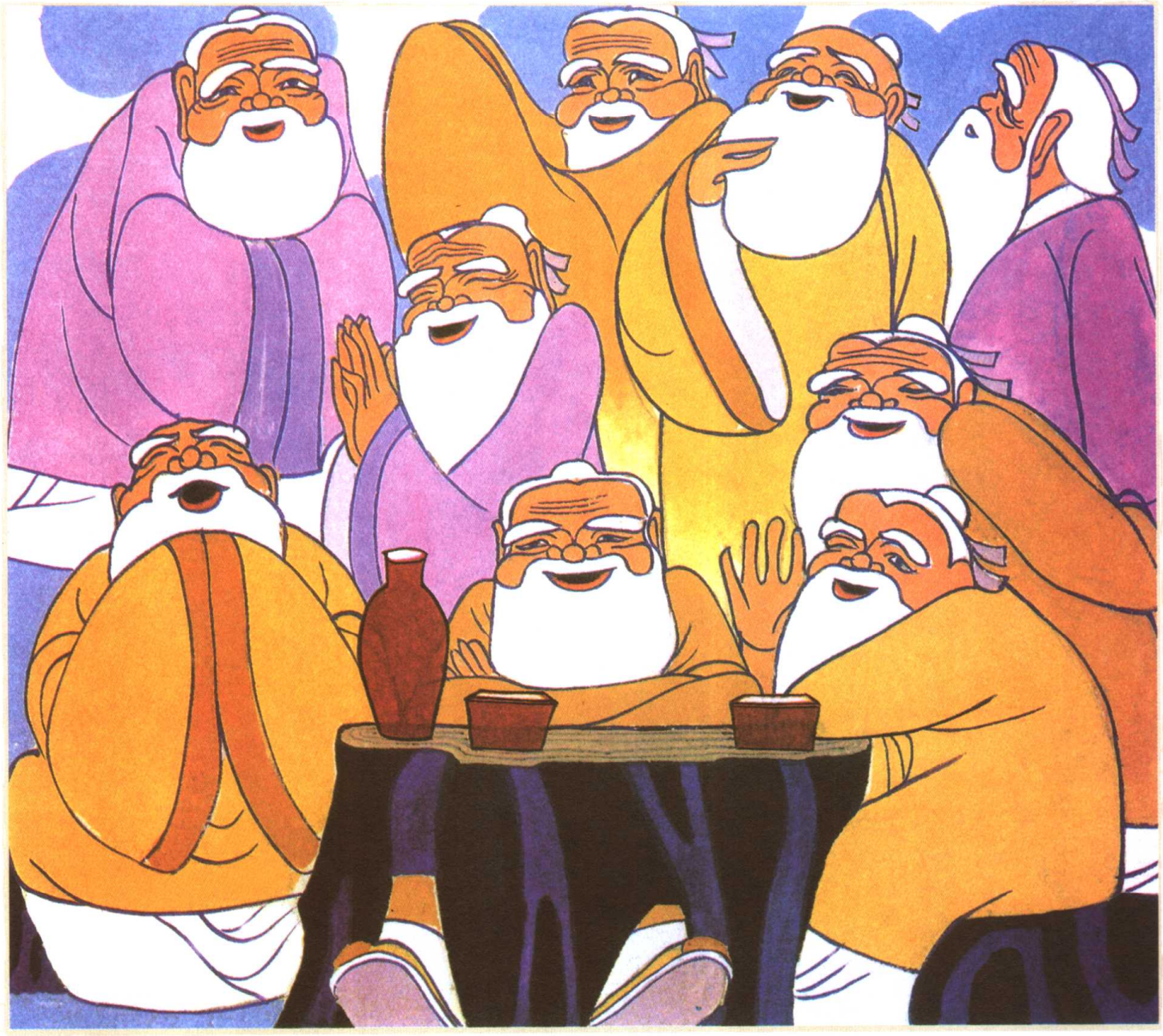
Monkey went straight off to the magic land of Penglai in the Eastern Ocean on his somersault cloud, whizzing through the air like lightning.

As Monkey approached the White Cloud Cave on Penglai he saw three immortals playing chess under the shade of some pine trees. Bringing his cloud down to land, he raised his hands together and bowed to the immortals. Then he told them all about how he had destroyed the magic tree and asked if they had any magic formula that would bring it back to life.

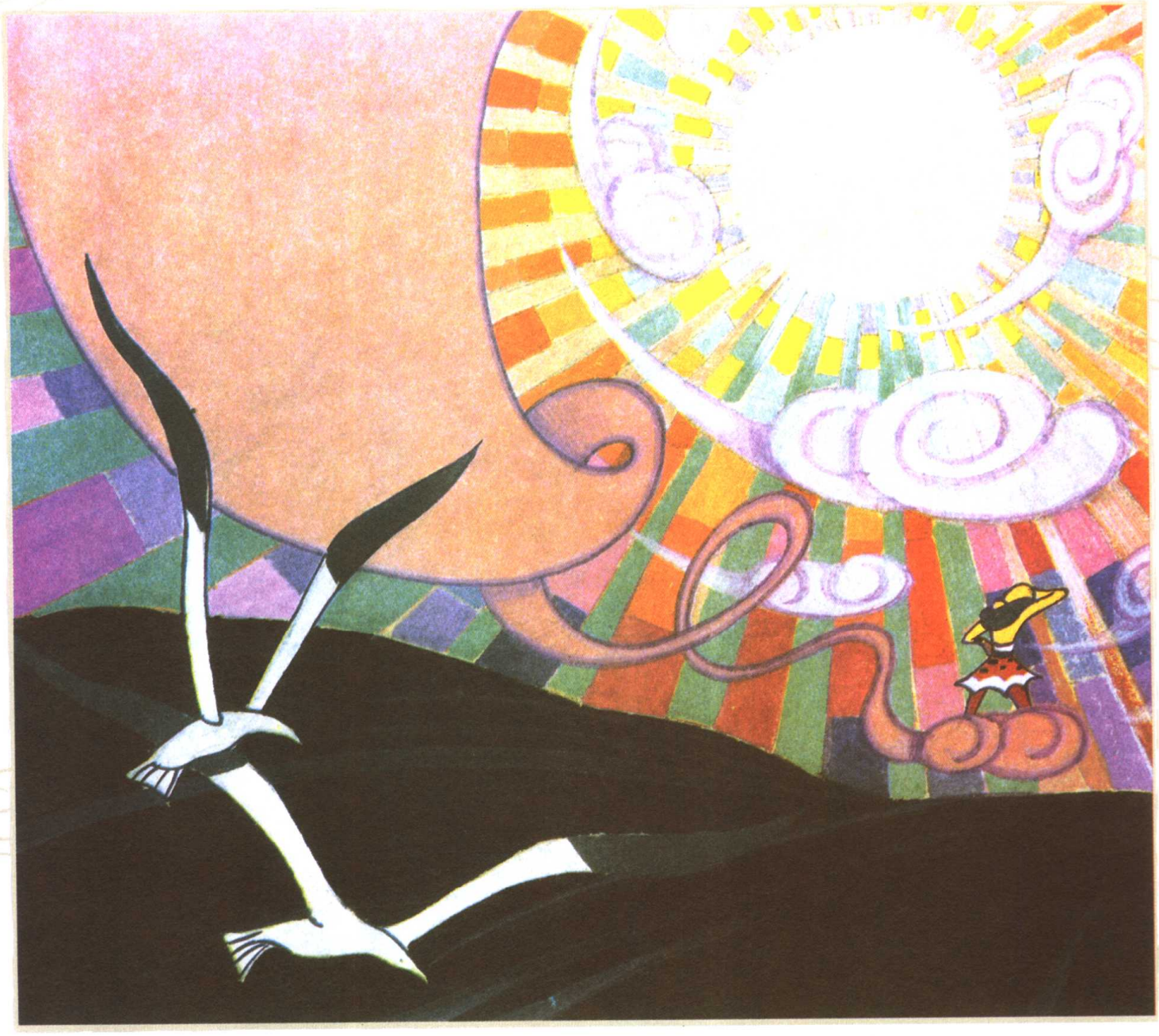
"The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan is the foremost of the immortals of the earth," the three told him. "We are the foremost of the divine immortals, and we can revive only the birds and the beasts. We can't bring the magic fruit tree back to life. All we can do is to ask the Great Immortal to give you a longer time limit." "All right," said Monkey. "I'd be most obliged if you would." The three immortals took their leave of Monkey and headed for the Five Village Temple on their auspicious light.

Monkey left Penglai and went to Mount Fangzhang on another magic island to call on the Heavenly Emperor of the East. "I have an elixir, but it can heal only ordinary fruit trees, not a magic fruit tree." As he was not going to find any cure here, Monkey flew off again on his cloud.

Next he went to the island of Yingzhou, where several silver-haired, white-bearded immortals were enjoying themselves playing chess and listening to music.



When the immortals saw Monkey coming, they hurried over to greet him. Monkey told them he was searching for an elixir to heal the magic tree. "You really were asking for trouble!" the immortals exclaimed. "We have no formula that can help you." "Well," said Monkey, "in that case I'll be on my way."

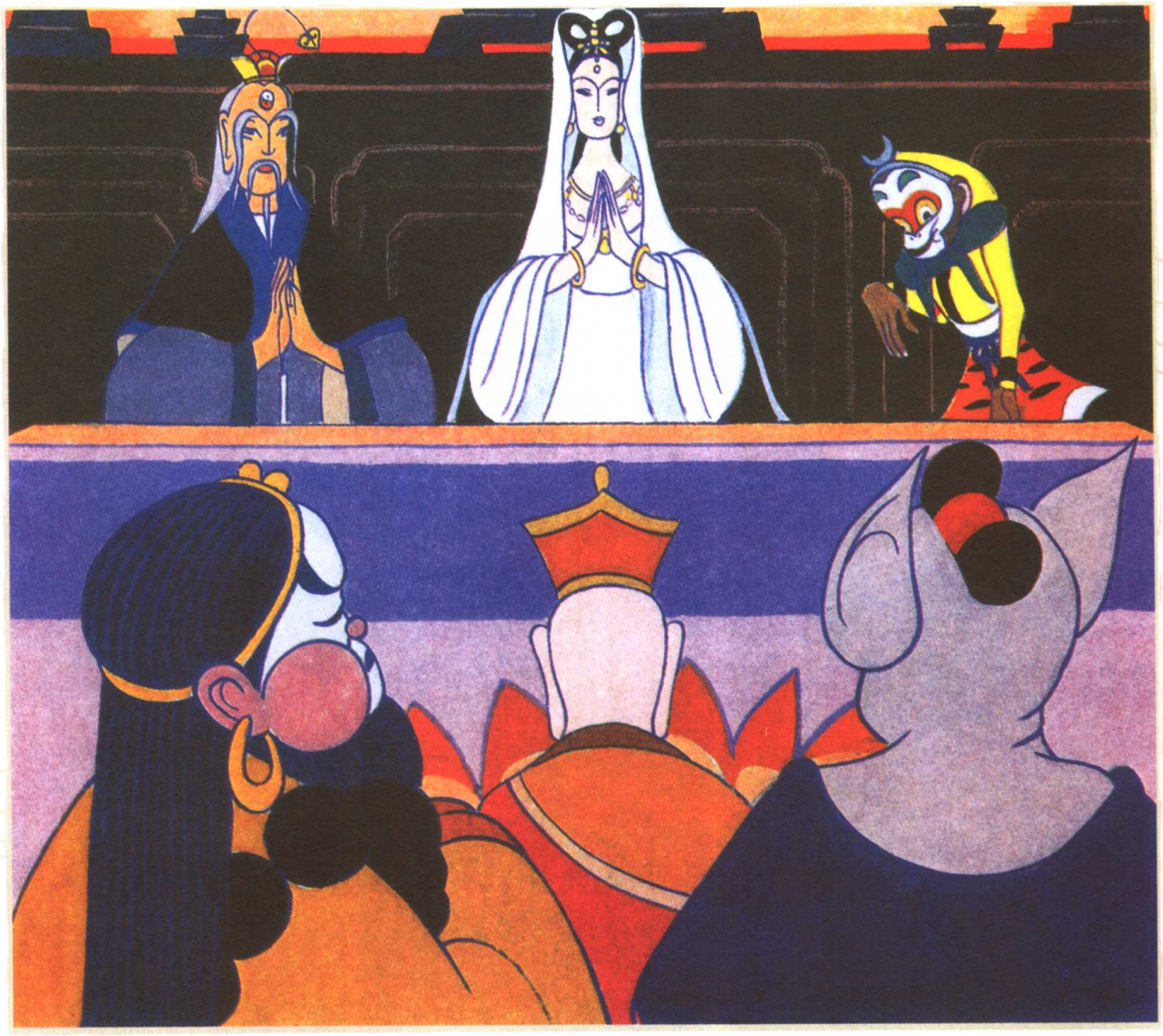


Monkey sped away from Yingzhou across the Eastern Ocean, heading straight for the holy island of Putuo (Potaraka). He was going to see the Bodhisattva Guanyin and ask her for a magic cure that would bring the tree back to life.

At the time the Bodhisattva Guanyin was preaching on the Buddhist scriptures in the Purple Bamboo Grove. As soon as she saw Monkey, she knew what he wanted, so after he had bowed low to her in homage, she started to scold him. "Impudent ape," she said, "wicked creature! That fruit tree was a divine plant that went back to the creation of heaven and earth. Besides, even I have to treat the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan with a certain respect. How could you destroy his precious tree?"

Monkey bowed again and said, "Honestly, I didn't know that, and I've promised to cure his tree. I've been to all three of the islands of the immortals, but none of them can give me a cure. That is why I've come to pay my respects to you, Bodhisattva, and to beg you to give me something that will bring the tree back to life and save my master. Then we can be on our way west again to fetch the scriptures." After hearing this explanation, the Bodhisattva picked up her jar of nectar and went by cloud with Monkey to the Five Village Temple.

The Great Immortal and the three Penglai immortals were talking with the Tang Priest in the temple when all of a sudden Monkey brought his cloud down and called out, "The Bodhisattva's here. Come out to welcome her."



They all hurried out from the main hall. First the Bodhisattva exchanged some polite remarks with the Great Immortal, then bowed to the three immortals and took the seat of honour. Monkey led the Tang Priest, Pig and Friar Sand to bow in homage to her. After this junior immortals of the temple all came to pay their respects.

After the temple garden had been swept clean and incense tables set up, the Great Immortal Zhen Yuan invited the Bodhisattva, the three immortals, the Tang Priest and his disciples into the garden. The tree lay on the ground, its branches dead and its leaves withered. The Bodhisattva told Monkey to open his hands wide and drew a talisman that would restore the dead to life. Then she dipped a willow sprig into the sweet dew in her jar and gave it to Monkey to place under the roots of the tree.

That very instant fountains began to play, sprinkling the branches with brilliantly coloured water. Before everyone's eyes the roots dug into the earth and the dead branches came back to life. Once more the tree was covered with dense foliage, amid which were twenty-three magic fruits.

The Great Immortal Zhen Yuan was delighted to see that his tree was alive once more. He ordered his junior immortals to put up lanterns and other decorations in the hall and set out elixir dishes ready for a magic-fruit banquet. He was giving this feast to thank all the immortals for the trouble they had gone to and also to swear brotherhood with Monkey.

After the banquet Monkey saw the Bodhisattva and the three immortals off, then left the Five Village Temple with the Tang Priest, Pig and Friar Sand to continue their journey to the west to fetch the scriptures.

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